Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Second Summit of G-15 Countries Begins in Caracas 1
Malaysia's Mahathir Arrives *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA]* 1
Argentine President Arrives *[Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 1
Venezuela's Perez Opens Summit *[Caracas TV]* 1
Delegates Address Summit *[Caracas TV]* 3
Mexican President Speaks *[Mexico City TV]* 5
Foreign Ministers Comment *[Caracas TV]* 5

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

President Castro SNTAF Congress Speech *[Havana TV]* 7
Six People Sentenced in 'Example-Setting Trials' *[AFP]* 21
Health Vice Minister Reports on AIDS Cases *[Madrid EFE]* 21
Agricultural Development Enters Crucial Phase *[Havana Radio]* 22
Agriculture Ministry To Build Multiplows *[Havana TV]* 22
Workers Mobilized To Work in Tomato Planting *[Havana TV]* 22
CDR Select Vacant Lots for Collective Gardens *[Havana Radio]* 22
Spanish Machines, Advisers Arrive at Factory *[Havana TV]* 22
Gas Plant on Isle of Turiguano Operational *[Havana TV]* 23
Transportation Minister Outlines Strategy for 1992 *[Havana Radio]* 23
UN To Discuss World Economic Order Resolution *[Havana Radio]* 23
'Limited Sovereignty' Criticized at UN Committee *[Havana TV]* 23
Forty Haitians Leave Island for United States *[Havana TV]* 23
Official Says Haitians Not To Be Repatriated *[Havana Radio]* 24
Boats With Haitians Continue To Arrive *[Havana Radio]* 24
U.S. Plans To House Haitians at Guantanamo *[Havana TV]* 24
Aldana Addresses Nonaligned News Agencies Meeting *[Havana Radio]* 24
Iraqi News Agency Director Meets Counterparts *[Baghdad INA]* 24
Nonaligned News Agencies Pool Meeting Ends *[Havana TV]* 24
Commentary Criticizes Western Journalists *[Havana Radio]* 25

Dominican Republic

Paris Club Agrees To Restructure Foreign Debt *[Santo Domingo Radio/TV]* 25

Haiti

Honorat Announces Presidential Elections *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 25
Conacom Says Cartagena Talks 'Positive Step' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 27
Deputy Criticizes Cartagena Delegation *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 27
Brutus Defends Composition *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 27
Station Reports on Refugee Camps in Cuba *[Bonaire Radio]* 28
Liberian Registered Fuel Tanker Violates Embargo *[Bonaire Radio]* 28

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Government Grants Asylum to Cuban Deserters *[Hamburg DPA]* 29
Calderon Expects Relief of Debt in 1992 *[San Jose Radio]* 29

El Salvador

Crusade Says Cristiani Betrayed People, Homeland *[EL MUNDO 25 Nov]* 29
Cristiani Assesses Betrayal Charge *[San Salvador Radio]* 30
Rebel View of Crusades 'Political Blindness' *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 30
Government Communique on Peace Negotiations *[San Salvador Radio]* 31
New Anticommunist Group Issues Communique *[San Salvador Radio]* 31
FMLN Leader: Suspension of Bombing 'Not Enough' *[San Salvador Radio]* 32
Alliance Leader Sees Complex Transition Period *[San Salvador Radio]* 32
Zamora Reports Kidnap Attempt Against Bodyguard *[San Salvador TV]* 32

Guatemala

Serrano To Testify in Trial of Officers *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 32
URNG Urges Serrano To Create Climate for Talks *[PRENSA LIBRE 26 Nov]* 33
URNG Reports Inflicting 45 Casualties on Army *[Panama City ACAN]* 33
Government Agrees to Rights Group Investigation *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 33
Minister Denounces Operations by Medellin Cartel *[PRENSA LIBRE 26 Nov]* 34

Honduras

Reportage on ENEE Attack, Government Response 34
Morazanist Front Claims Responsibility *[TIEMPO 25 Nov]* 34
President Callejas Condemns Attack *[EL HERALDO 25 Nov]* 35
Workers Strike Declared Illegal *[Tegucigalpa Radio/TV]* 35
Workers Urged To Disregard Strike *[Tegucigalpa Radio/TV]* 36
Union Notes Army Occupation *[Panama City ACAN]* 37
Army Ordered To Protect Plant *[Tegucigalpa Radio/TV]* 37

Nicaragua

OAS Representative on Recompas-Recontra Meeting *[Managua Radio]* 37
Recontras, Recompas Give Ultimatum to Government *[Managua Radio]* 38
EPS Suspends Search of Recontra Leader *[LA PRENSA 25 Nov]* 38
Recompas Take Responsbility for Damaging Stations *[Managua Radio]* 39
Presidency Minister Comments on Mixed Commission *[Managua TV]* 39

Panama

Endara Details Presidential Security Expenditures *[EL SIGLO 26 Nov]* 40
PRD Legislator: U.S. Envoy Governs Country *[LA CRONICA 20-27 Nov]* 40
Article Notes Cuban 'Interference' in Country *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 24 Nov]* 40
Assassins Reportedly Threaten Chiriqui Attorneys *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 26 Nov]* 43

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Menem Departs for G-15, Rio Group Meetings *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 44
Second Deregulation Package Announced *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 27 Nov]* 44
IMF's Camdessus Notes Confidence in Economy *[TELAM]* 45
Oil Firm Receives $28 Million World Bank Loan *[TELAM]* 45
Pierri Reelected Chamber of Deputies President *[Buenos Aries Radio]* 45

Bolivia

Paz Seeks Joint International Antidrug Strategy *[PRESENCIA 24 Nov]* 46
Government Seeks More Time for Coca Eradication *[LA PRESENCIA 23 Nov]* 46
Legal Coca Market Inaugurated in La Paz *[La Paz TV]* 47
Banzer on Respect for Majority Vote in Elections *[La Paz TV]* 47

Brazil

Collor Signs Decree Promoting Senior Officers *[O GLOBO 26 Nov]* 47
Vice President Franco Discusses Economy *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 27 Nov]* 48
Economy Minister Authorizes Uniform Purchase *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 28 Nov]* 48
Strategic Affairs Official Lauds Nuclear Accord *[Brasilia Radio]* 49
Japanese Businessmen Set Investment Conditions *[Brasilia Radio]* 49

Chile

Socialist International Meeting Ends in Santiago *[Santiago TV]* 49
Group Approves 14 Resolutions *[Santiago Radio]* 49
Letelier Suspect Rejects Criminal Registration *[Santiago Radio]* 50
Report on Political Murder of Spaniard in 1976 *[Santiago TV]* 50

Colombia

Eight Judicial Officials Dead in Attack in Usme *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 50
Government Condemns Murders *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 51
Attack Attributed to FARC *[Sante Fe de Bogota Radio]* 51
Judges, Officials Begin Strike *[AFP]* 52

Ecuador

Borja, Peruvian President Agree To Meet *[Madrid EFE]* 52
Borja Names New Mines and Energy Minister *[AFP]* 53

Peru

Terrorists Throw Bomb at Spanish Embassy *[Madrid EFE]* 53
Fujimori Border Dispute Proposal Approved *[Lima TV]* 53
U.S. Debt Reduction Initiatives Viewed *[LA REPUBLICA 17 Nov]* 54

Uruguay

Idea of IMF Structural Accord Abandoned *[Montevideo Radio]* 56
Lacalle Seeks Talks To Amend Constitution *[Montevideo Radio]* 56
Review of Navy's Incorporation of 16 Units *[EL PAIS 16 Nov]* 56

Guyana

President Hoyte Declares State of Emergency *[AFP]* 57
Legalizes Election Postponement *[CANA]* 57

Second Summit of G-15 Countries Begins in Caracas

Malaysia's Mahathir Arrives

BK2611074291 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0644 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Caracas, Nov 26 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed arrived here Monday night to attend the second summit of the group of 15 (G-15) countries beginning on Wednesday.

He was met on arrival at the Simon Bolivar international airport by the minister in the president's office, Beatriz Rangel. Also on hand to greet him was the Malaysian ambassador to Brazil, Looi Chook Hun, who is also accredited to Venezuela.

Dr. Mahathir, who was accompanied by his wife Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, was among the first of the heads of government/state to arrive for the summit to be held at the Caracas Hilton Hotel.

President Suharto of Indonesia, who is making a five-nation tour which began in Mexico last week, was the first to arrive.

Only 11 of the 15 heads of government/state are expected to attend the summit to be opened by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in the "Rios Reyna" hall of the Teresa Cerrano theatre, located opposite the hotel and reputed to be the largest in Latin America.

Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Boutros Ghali, who is secretary-general designate of the United Nations, will be representing his country while the heads of government/state of Nigeria, Brazil, and Yugoslavia are unable to come.

Dr. Mahathir will be speaking on behalf of the Asian continent at the summit where he will also hand over chairmanship to President Perez.

The summit is expected to endorse the remaining two of three Malaysian-proposed projects—the multilateral payments arrangement and the South Investment, Trade and Technology Data Exchange Centre (SITTDEC).

The first of the projects, proposed at the inaugural summit hosted by Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur in June last year, the bilateral payments arrangement (BPA), is already working.

Through the BPA mechanism, Malaysia's trade with 11 G-15 countries has increased significantly and Indonesia has also implemented the mechanism with Iran last year and Mexico during President Suharto's visit to that country.

Officials of member countries continued their meeting here Monday and it is understood that consensus had been reached on the setting up of SITTDEC, which Malaysia has offered to host in Kuala Lumpur.

SITTDEC would help in the exchange of information on and transfer of technology, not only among G-15 countries but all South countries.

There were also indications that the concept agreement on the MPA, to be called the Developing Countries Payments Arrangement (DCPA) had been well-received and the report would be submitted to the summit for endorsement.

DPCA is aimed at facilitating trade and business among South nations.

Foreign ministers of the summit steering committee (TROIKA), made up of Venezuela, Senegal and Malaysia, would be meeting Tuesday which will also see the signing of a trade agreement between Malaysia and Venezuela at the foreign ministry.

Argentine President Arrives

PY2811142291 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1208 GMT 28 Nov 91

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (NA)—Argentine President Carlos Menem arrived in Caracas this morning for the summit of the Group of 15. The Argentine chief executive arrived in the Venezuelan capital at 0715 local time, 0915 Argentine time.

Venezuela's Perez Opens Summit

PA2811022791 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1945 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez at the opening session of the Group of 15, G-15, summit at the Teresa Carreno Theater in Caracas, Venezuela—live]

[Text] Heads of State and Government of the Group of 15 [G- 15] nations, ministers, representatives, ladies and gentlemen, I cordially welcome you on behalf of the Venezuelan people and government. I reassert our commitment to solidarity, dialogue, and cooperation with a developing world. We are all here. We share common goals and are determined to contribute significantly to the debate on important contemporary issues. We cannot be indifferent about our critical situation. We must act with an eye to the future.

The sum of our social and cultural differences, our resources, and our common goals and problems represent the essence and strength of our current efforts. We are on the threshold of what may be a new era. The current international situation is characterized by complexity and dynamism. It is full of optimistic expectations, dangers, and challenges. The optimistic expectations include: an end to the Cold War and the bipolar confrontation, which held the world prey to its balance of terror; a tendency toward economic multipolarism; a generalization of the world's economy, with its promise

of economic balance and equal prosperity for all nations; vigorous efforts to achieve democratization; a greater awareness of sustained development for all the people of the world; and a greater awareness of ecological challenges.

The dangers and challenges include: a new hegemonism; conflicts stemming from the assertion of ethnic and cultural values; struggles for access to scarce natural resources; foreign debts; commercial protectionism; abuses of illegal transnational capitals; large-scale immigration; threats to the ecology; and drug trafficking. However, we must emphasize the positive and welcome the current situation, which is the most appropriate since World War II because it allows us to create a new international order that will go beyond military strength and will encompass economic, social, and ecological issues in our relations with other countries of the world. It represents the only guarantee for the achievement of peace among nations.

We know how much is at stake. We must pledge our participation, perhaps in circumstances without precedent, to comprise the world's new economic order. This new order will guarantee peace and development within a broad framework of international security. The protection of peace demands innovative actions to solve the economic and social problems afflicting most of mankind and to fill the increasing gap between the few rich and the many poor. The East-West confrontation must be replaced by North-South cooperation. We require a new international consensus on development, based on the fulfillment of the basic needs of human beings who struggle against poverty; a balance between the contributions of the state and business sectors; an ecological balance; and a favorable international atmosphere that takes into consideration developing countries' interests in areas such as trade and technology.

In the South we have made inroads in our efforts to strengthen national development policies. Most countries have committed themselves to implementing vigorous economic adjustments and trade liberalization programs that entail high social costs. However, our efforts have not been met by the necessary reciprocity and recognition of the North. While our countries are implementing trade liberalization, the North is closing markets with new forms of trade protectionism. There is an inequity in North-South relations that we must firmly tackle because it affects the viability of our own economic adjustments. No order will be viable unless the South's legitimate call for this indispensable dialogue is heeded. We urge the North to use its imagination to face the challenge of this frank and effective dialogue to solve existing problems.

We will continue to try our hardest to achieve greater self-sufficiency and efficiency at the national level; to strengthen cooperation with neighboring countries at the regional and subregional levels; and to achieve North-South integration through the partial schemes being implemented in certain areas of the world. We must focus our development efforts from the inside out and make them truly sustainable. How can we overlook the problems of the environment, energy, and drugs that require international efforts to solve? Everyone in the world is subject to the inevitable planetary interdependence. Developing countries cannot fail to act or leave important decisions in the hands of a few.

Our summit is taking place amid these world changes. There are reasons to be hopeful if we respond to recent initiatives that could show us the path to a new spirit of dialogue and cooperation. The conference on energy in Paris, promoted by France and Venezuela out of common interest, successfully gathered a large group of producing and consuming countries to constructively discuss a key issue for international cooperation. The G-15 constitutes an initiative to renew the South's active role in favor of our peoples' interests by contributing its efforts to other forums of the South. Our aim is not to replace those forums. Our cause is linked to the search for greater democratization in the international decisionmaking process.

We must advocate a healthy pragmatism that will allow us to implement specific projects without having to wait for other projects to be approved.

We will have the political will to set in motion the initiatives we have planned through our technological, commercial, and investment cooperation center. We will set in motion technical cooperation plans to increase food production and create family planning and development programs in the lower income sectors.

We want to incorporate the so-called operations' actors (actores operativos) into our cooperation plans and objectives. The support given to the private businessmen's meeting being held at the same time as this summit, with the support of the Venezuelan private sector, is proof of that.

To achieve an international consensus on development, which is essential to the formation of the new world order, we must overcome some positions in the current discussion. One of these is the misleading ideological simplification of the inherent antagonism between the state and market. In reality, they need each other. It is necessary to maintain a balance between the contributions of the two parts, without allowing the correction of the states' abuses to be used for its definitive elimination.

In the South, we have advanced a lot through a critical examination of mistakes in our development policies. We have entered a situation in which the countries of the South are the most sensible regarding the economic liberation which the North has professed for so long.

The topic of the environment is another imbalance in North-South relations. The enormous responsibility to preserve the environment cannot be forgotten while the technologies needed to support national development efforts and fight poverty are reserved and restricted for

the South. Underdevelopment and poverty are the main results of environmental destruction in our countries. The North, with less than 20 percent of the world's population, consumes 85 percent of the planet's raw materials and produces 80 percent of environmental contamination. If the tropical forest is humanity's patrimony, it should also be the patrimony of science and technology.

The conclusion of the East-West confrontation will reveal that the most serious problem of our times is the unbalanced relationship between the North and the South. Fears of an environmental apocalypse, drugs, and massive migrations from the South to the North are real. There will be no walls high enough in this world of intricate interdependence that we are already living in, [to stop them]. I strongly urge the North to hold a sincere and effective dialogue with the South, without confrontational rhetoric, to find the new international order that we all desire.

I must underscore the significance of the first summit in Kuala Lumpur and acknowledge the Malaysian Government and its distinguished host Prime Minister Mahathir for his actions at that historical event. It is my turn in Caracas to strengthen the results of that first summit so that the G-15 can be consolidated with the same determination that spurred on the visionaries of Bandung [Indonesia] and many of our predecessors in their undertakings.

The South Commission's report proves that the South exists internationally as a self-contained entity. It exists that way because there is a sociocultural and economic reality that cannot be subdued or ignored and because there is a geographical-climatic reality resulting from our location in the tropics, where we can establish our own patterns of production and consumption. There are common interests among our economies, which must achieve more sophisticated levels of development in a more appropriate international economic atmosphere.

In short, I propose one world of justice and peace. To achieve this we cannot deny our identity or refrain from asserting our just rights and interests. If, nowadays, we have the essential diversity to maintain environmental equilibrium and nature's productive vigor, this is no less important in the case of humanity. The challenge the G-15 is faced with is to find that new South that will take us in a dignified and fair manner to the universality that the planet is demanding for its survival. Thank you. [applause]

Delegates Address Summit

PA2811233591

[Editorial Report] Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish at 2002 GMT on 27 November, following Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' inaugural speech of the Group of 15, G-15, Summit, broadcasts live speeches by Malaysian Prime Minister bin Mohamed Mahathir, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, and Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe at the Teresa Carreno Theater.

Malaysian Prime Minister bin Mohamed Mahathir, speaking in English, with simultaneous translation into Spanish, reads a 22-minute speech. After saying he is honored to speak on behalf of the group's Asian members, Mahathir underscores the many changes that have taken place throughout the world and notes that not all of them look promising for the developing countries. He points out that at the inaugural meeting in Kuala Lumpur "some of us had hoped there would be a more democratic and just relationship among nations, small and large, after the end of the Cold War. That hope vanished. In fact, this new unipolar world is threatening to bring back the old domination of the powerful over the weak." He adds that "a new world order has been proposed apparently to legitimize meddling in the affairs of independent and sovereign nations."

Mahathir states that the world economic system is under much greater pressure than in the past. He points out that inequalities in the world economic system were never as marked as they are now, because there is a recession in the North and aid has been reduced. This has created a host of problems in the South.

The Malaysian prime minister says that "the preachers of free trade and multilateralism have become great heretics. We notice this in the formation of trade blocs in the North, in the imposition of national laws beyond the borders or powerful nations, and in the discriminatory trade restrictions."

Mahathir argues that democracy and free market bring a new "gospel of the environment." He says that "we are told that the South must limit its goals and focus on development to ensure that humanity—which is nothing other than the enjoyment of the good life by the rich of the North—is not jeopardized.

The prime minister points out that against all ethical principles, the poor are told and even forced to pay for the rich people's well being. He claims that UN agencies, such as the UN Program for Development, try to impose the values of the North on the South. Mahathir asks: "If a coalition could be established to win the war, why not establish a coalition to tackle the South's critical problems and launch a war against illiteracy, disease, poverty, and penury?" He says that "what is needed is a new era of global cooperation in which the interests and views of all countries are taken into account, and if democracy is the only acceptable political creed, then let us ensure that the global decisionmaking process is also democratic."

The prime minister says that not only must the South change, but the North must also make changes. He urges the North to reduce its huge budget deficits and live within its means. He adds that "the North must realize that its irresponsible expenditures affect international currency and financial markets." Mahathir says that the North must acknowledge that others have the right to raise their voices to defend their interests. However, he

added, "Southeast Asians are not even allowed to hold consultations among themselves. The United States rejects and vehemently opposes the economic organization of Southeast Asia and demands that Japan and South Korea leave that group to establish a consulting group. South Korea is told that it has a debt sealed in blood with the United States and owes nothing to Malaysia, and thus, must follow the line established by the United States."

The Malaysian prime minister adds that "historically and currently the North has been the main culprit of global environmental deterioration." As an example, he says that the North is responsible for 80 percent of gas emissions that cause the greenhouse effect.

Mahathir argues that in view of these threats and changes facing us today there is an even greater need in the South to work together to protect our threatened independence and improve our development outlook. He points to the cooperation among countries of the South and the progress made in Malaysian-Venezuelan relations. He says: "Our plan is not to break away from the North. In fact, we must intensify our interaction with the North. However, at the same time, we must increase interdependence among countries of the South in order to reduce our dependence on the North."

Mahatir says that countries of the South are overlooking opportunities to help each other and adds that the "answer is probably an inherited perception that the North is the center of the world." He points out that the South buys back its own products because the North markets our products.

In conclusion, Mahatir calls for united efforts to maximize the South's strength and speak as one voice. He says that the South must work with pragmatism and realism to ensure an egalitarian world in which the South is not isolated.

At 2024 GMT Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori begins reading a 12-minute speech. After referring to Venezuela's hospitality, Fujimori says that "never before in the history of mankind has the interdependence of the earth's people been so evident." He points out that the world is changing at unprecedented speed, bringing undeniable consequences for our economies and societies. Fujimori argues that "the South, without a strong voice and tangible presence, will be unable to adjust to this changing world." He says the South "must take initiative and assume its responsibilties to share with the North the construction of mankind's future."

He says our countries must present daring and imaginative proposals that can be put into practice. He adds that "experience has conclusively shown that in today's world only the countries with a realistic and pragmatic international strategy will be able to enter the 21st century on the right footing. We are thus facing a real challenge to our imagination and decisionmaking ability."

Fujimori goes on to talk about the poorer countries' lack of resources to stop the deterioration of the environment. He urges the industrialized world to reflect about the damage and to support programs to stop the destruction of our common habitat. He calls for a commitment "to start the engine of cooperation that will make possible the optimal use of our scarce capital and technological resources and to use our huge natural resources within the framework of the new development strategies."

Fujimori calls attention to the deterioration of the living conditions of our societies in recent times. He says that the internationalization of the market economy makes evident the increasing internationalization of democracy as a government system. He points to the creation of blocs of countries or economic groups whose priority is to eliminate protectionism. Fujimori says that, among other things, "this implies a greater liberalization of the flow of techological transfer. This is essential for the South; it could be decisive in the transformation and modernization of our productive structures." The Peruvian president says that he believes that there are conditions for the South to "implement a policy of dynamic equilibrium with the great markets of the North."

Fujimori notes that "it is necessary to propose a new approach, emphasizing a new pact of solidarity in favor of development." He adds that an agenda for a new dialogue on cooperation is urgent and that the payment of the debt should include more favorable conditions and formulas to reduce it "to recover growth and contribute to the expansion of a healthier trade system" for the mutual benefit of both the South and the North."

He states that the G-15 was born to become a "valid interlocutor of the industrialized world and increase our interdependence." He emphasizes that its commitment to future generations is to help the new world become more "equitable, efficient, democratic, honest, fraternal, and free." He closes by stressing: "Latin America will walk alongside its brothers of the South on the path to the future."

At 2036 GMT, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe addresses the meeting in English, with simultaneous translation into Spanish. He opens by noting that "the South is willing, ready, and able to take charge of its own economic destiny." He discusses the direction and probable impact of basic political, economic, and technological changes in the world. He notes that these changes are so negative with regard to the South that they "increase and strengthen the gap that separates the North from the South, the rich from the poor, and the developed from the developing countries." He points to the need for the South "to mobilize all its political, economic, and diplomatic resources to face the challenge of poverty."

Mugabe claims that "the developed countries continue to manipulate the international systems for their own benefit, while claiming to be democratic." He asks:

"Where is democracy if it cannot be applied internationally?" The South, he adds, or 75 percent of humankind, has the inalienable right to be heard.

Regarding the foreign debt, he says that there must be radical and bold changes to the debt structure. He notes that "multilateral institutions must seriously consider cancelling or refinancing the debt owed by low- and middle-income countries."

He adds that "there are indications that the state impasse in the Uruguayan bilateral trade negotiations can be overcome shortly." He says that developing countries "must resist the arrogant stance taken by the Group of Seven" in international negotiations. "The members of this group, merely by virtue of their high level of development, have assumed the role of decision-makers for the rest of the world," he says. He adds: "Let us say no to this arrogant attitude, no to the subordination of all our countries to their whims, and no to the reduction of all of us to nothing but the worshippers of these economic Gods."

Mugabe concludes by noting that "the need for international peace is urgent not only to provide international economic prosperity but also to facilitate involvement in regional and international organizations." He says regional development efforts are falling behind because of conflicts in certain places. "This is why we, in Africa, want colonial conflicts, such as those in South Africa and the Western Saharan region, to end."

Mexican President Speaks

PA2811195891 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report by Juan Manuel Pereira]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has said in Caracas, Venezuela that Mexico is committed to attaining positive results at the Uruguay Round.

At the start of the private meetings of the G-15 in Caracas, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made a clear and decisive call for the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round as soon as possible.

The Mexican president was the first speaker during the first round of talks. He said Mexico is firmly committed to positive results at the Uruguay Round in three main aspects: ample access to markets, stable and transparent rules and procedures, and symmetry in dealing with the new topics of services, intellectual property, and investment.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari also talked about world trends toward economic arrangements so countries can better enjoy the benefits of comparative advantage and contribute to the expansion of world trade.

The Mexican president talked to the G-15 about the negotiations contained in the trilateral treaty with the United States and Canada.

On this occasion, the heads of state and government were accompanied by businessmen, who are currently holding parallel meetings to explore investment possibilities in the areas of food, chemicals, machinery, tools, services, and other manufactured goods.

Foreign Ministers Comment

PA2711232291 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Interview with Senegalese Foreign Minister Djibo Ka, in French with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish, and Argentine Foreign Minister Guido di Tella by reporter Omaira Botello at the Hilton Hotel in Caracas, Venezuela—live]

[Text] [Botello] Good afternoon. This is a live report from the Caracas Hilton on the occasion of the Group of 15 [G-15] summit.

We are here with the Senegalese foreign minister, who will tell us about the first meeting of the G-15 foreign ministers this morning. What were the most important points discussed by the foreign ministers?

[[Ka]] We discussed many points. I do not want to report the details of what we discussed for these are matters that have yet to be discussed by the chiefs of state. We discussed important matters, such as the important efforts that are being made to bring about peace in the Middle East. We are happy with these efforts. We hope this will create a permanent peace in that part of the world.

As an African, I would like to comment on our discussions on South Africa. The ministers expressed pleasure with the progress that has been made in that country to eliminate apartheid in order to establish a democratic and nonracist society in South Africa. We encourage the movement toward a new South Africa.

I also want to mention the attention we gave to South-South cooperation. This cooperation is the reason the G-15 exists. We want South-South cooperation to act as a central federation in this new international atmosphere. We want it to provide economic, technological, and cultural cooperation. We also want it to unite our positions on international negotiations having to do with the GATT meeting in Uruguay and the world conference on environment and development to be held in Rio de Janeiro next year. All these issues will be discussed in detail by the chiefs of state.

[Botello] Will any agreement be signed on these basic points?

[[Ka]] Once the chiefs of state agree on what points to approve, some agreements will be signed at the conclusion of the summit. One point deals with technological exchanges among G-15 countries. This is an important point that represents a decisive step in South-South cooperation.

[Botello] We thank the foreign minister of Senegal for giving us this important information.

We continue to report live from the Caracas Hilton Hotel. We now have Argentine Foreign Minister Mr. Guido di Tella, who will tell us about the dialogue held today by the foreign ministers.

[Di Tella] We discussed many issues. I will mention a few. One has to do with what was mentioned yesterday by the foreign minister of Venezuela: the autonomy of the G-15 from other groups, including the Nonaligned Movement. It is true that the group resulted from a specific meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, but the group is autonomous. I am saying this because right now there are three G-15 countries that are not members of the Nonaligned Movement and this does not act against us or against the Nonaligned Movement. We feel that the existence of a group like this one, which represents an important sector of the developing countries, is very important.

We think that as a result of the changes that have taken place, it is necessary to enlarge the group somewhat. We have found that some countries are very interested in joining the group. The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry invited Colombian President Gaviria to the meeting, but he will not be able to come. However, I think that was a very good initiative on the part of Venezuela. When we learned of this, we agreed that the invitation was due. We regret that President Gaviria will not be with us tomorrow. I want to make this public. We also agreed that a similar invitation to Chilean President Aylwin was due. We believe, from a Latin American point of view, that it is not reasonable to keep out countries as important as those countries and the countries of Central America. With the incorporation of these three nations [as heard], we would jump from six to nine members. There will be other similar expansions.

Considering the changes that have taken place in Europe, we do not think Eastern Europe should be represented only by Yugoslavia while Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary have no representative.

The Gulf [not further identified] countries have no representation. We should base our expansion on the changes that have taken place. This group, which promotes more international cooperation and democratic market policies within the countries, is gaining and could gain more importance.

[Botello] Do you think this type of meeting strengthens the unity among these countries.

[Di Tella] Undoubtedly. It implies an effort on the part of the presidents. We must understand that some presidents will not be able to attend because of problems in their countries or personal problems, as in a particular case. We think the high level of representation here, with foreign ministers and presidents, is important. It is a sign. It allows these countries to act collectively as valid interlocutors in talks with the countries of the North.

[Botello] Thank you, foreign minister.

Cuba

President Castro SNTAF Congress Speech

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[Speech by President Fidel Castro Ruz at the closing session of the Fifth National Agricultural, Livestock, and Forestry Workers Union, SNTAF, Congress held at the Cuban Workers Federation Lazaro Pena Theater in Havana on 22 November—recorded]

[Text] Comrades delegates and guests. The truth is that I am not the person who should be making the closing remarks at an event at which I have not had the opportunity to participate. Unfortunately, the number of commitments I have had in these past few days, the number of events I had to attend, made it impossible for me to be here. I am sure that had I been here I would have received much information and, as I understand it, great encouragement because of the way this congress was held. However, I did not want this event to be held, this important event for a decisive activity in these times of the revolution, which is the production of food, without putting in an appearance, even a brief appearance, to stress the importance that our country, people, party, and state, give to the efforts being made by the workers of the agricultural and forestry sectors.

When I arrived here I asked to be informed, in a few minutes, of the main issues broached, the main topics and various problems broached at this congress. Salvador [Salvador Valdes Meza] and Ross [Pedro Ross Leal] informed me of this when I got here. My time here today is limited because I have a very important engagement to keep. An intense policy must be practiced in all areas in these times. There are times when one delegation after another have to be received not simply for protocol reasons, but because they are very important in the battle we are waging in these times of special period. I tried to gather information, get a feeling of the environment, have a few minutes to talk to you about various matters, mostly general matters, and make a brief speech.

As we all know, this congress is being held amid truly difficult and complex times. I am going to read this little note. [not further explained] Yes, I am more or less aware of this; thank you very much. Well, we were just remembering and whatever I say here can be said. I mentioned that there were a few foreign delegations present and I am going to take this opportunity to give them a warm welcome. [applause] As I was saying, we are living truly difficult times. During these times, your work is decisive. No news can be better news than that which tells us that among the agricultural and forestry workers there is a great working spirit and a great revolutionary spirit. Even though your labor movement plays a very decisive role, the success of our food program will depend greatly, or rather, depend completely on your efforts.

We must say that the food matter is number one for us. It is top priority on our whole program. We could compare it, put it at the same level, as the medicine program. Medicine is necessary for the use of the people and it is also an export possibility for our country in light of the new products we are creating. We are increasing the production of those products that are already known. We have important economic programs. I would say that the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry programs are of great importance. It is difficult to say that they are number two on the list of priorities; however, I must say that ahead of all this we place the food program, or better said, food matters, not only the program.

We have the tourism program to obtain foreign exchange. Those are the three most important programs. The tourism program is very important because it is going to give us the resources we do not have today. It will allow us to exploit natural resources. It would be great to have large beds of underground oil. But, there is sun, water, light, and excellent conditions for tourists to rest, then we have no other alternative but to develop this field and we are doing this at a good rate. But we have our priorities and the food program is ahead of the tourism program.

Now why do I say that it is not only food matters but the food program as a whole? Because we cannot produce all our food. We must, unavoidably, import much food. Of course, we are the country that produces the most food per capita in the world. Because, in the world, we feed four people for every one Cuban. With our sugar, we export calories for 40 million people. There is no other country in the world that, with so little land, can produce as much food as Cuba can. I am saying this for you to feel pleased, for those who believe that there could be a better way to produce what our country produces. But, there is much food that must, unavoidably, be imported. These are foods that we cannot produce because of our climate, because their production would be too costly, or because those products would have to compete with our crops that are cheaper to produce. I will give you an example.

Growing sugarcane has its advantages. You can have a sugarcane field for 10 years without plowing the land and you will cut seven, eight, nine, 10 or more tons of food for every hectare. If instead of sugarcane we were to plant corn, then we would have to plow the soil every time the corn is planted. In addition, we would have to protect the corn against the strong winds and drought. Corn is not like sugarcane. Sugarcane gets rained on in the spring, tolerates droughts, and grows again when it rains. The production of cane has unquestionable advantages. Much more today when sugarcane has become raw material for animal feed and many other productions, important and decisive productions. In other words, we cannot give up our sugarcane lands to produce corn. Economically speaking, it would be disastrous. We cannot produce wheat in this country. There are other foods we must import. We must import many grains because our climate is not appropriate or safe for their production. In other words, when we speak of food we

must also take into consideration the need to import food. That is another priority for the revolution. That is why I refer to all of this as food matters.

During the special period, food matters are very important. We must simply feed the people. This is top priority; therefore, we must combine our national production program with the import programs. And how can we guarantee this? What products should we import during the special period? I will give you an example.

There are times when we must import a ton of chickens because our supply of chickens failed or because we had to turn a number of oxen into tractors, or for other reasons, mainly because we are no longer receiving the supplies that we had been historically receiving for our poultry production. Then, we have to make certain imports, big imports.

The milk deficits we are experiencing are the result of the lack of animal feed. This has resulted in the need to import large amounts of milk. However, that is not all. The large amounts of powdered milk we were receiving from the GDR—powdered milk we received in exchange for torula yeast that we produced at our sugar refineries following large investments we made in that area—were all lost when the GDR collapsed and the new German state did not assume that responsibility. They deprived our country of more than 20,000 tons of powdered milk. This happened at the same time that the end to the supply of grains deprived our cattle sector of animal feed. The country has had to make big efforts to import powdered milk. I just wanted to give you an example.

Within our program—and I am now talking about the program in the special period—we must guarantee protein and calories for the people. Nothing can guarantee us that we will be able to maintain the same kinds of food. Nothing can guarantee us that during the special period. But we must try, at all cost, to give our people enough calories and protein, if possible, even more calories and protein. Perhaps some changes will have to be made and changes will surely have to be made in the proportion between protein of a vegetable origin and protein of animal protein. This will have to be done for a while simply because: What do we do with our bulls? Kill them? Or turn them into instruments of work to produce food at times when we do not have fuel or even to plow the land? We cannot import bull's meat. Who knows where it is imported from, or with what it is imported.

In a certain way, we find ourselves facing the same problem with poultry. You spend $1,250 on a ton of poultry that gives you 143 kg of protein. Investment in specific grains, this money would represent 1,000 kg of protein. Fortunately, there are some products, of a vegetable nature, that cost much less on the world market and whose protein content is high, in addition to their mineral salt, vitamin, etc., content. This means that at a given time you can substitute a ton of poultry for five tons of one of those grains. We have been studying all these things in regard to food, the kinds of food in the world, and how we can guarantee, with the limited resources we have, the necessary calories and protein for all our people. It could be that, at a given time, our meat supply will drop and our supply of certain grains increase. This in light of the situation we are experiencing.

In our country most of our birds were fed with animal feed; soya flour, corn, wheat, etc. That is how we achieved the high production of poultry in our country. It is not that easy to feed our chicken sacharina, or grass. Chickens do not eat grass. This means that in the special period the party and the government seek to ensure that our people will not lack protein or calories even if we have to change the proportions between, and I repeat, protein of an animal origin and protein of a vegetable origin.

We have been studying all the various food systems, products in the world that are rich in protein, some changes to formulas. We have been talking about this. We have even discussed the possibility of giving a little more food. We need time for all the grazing land to reach the same levels as the Tutu pastures. But, will we have the money to get the milk we need? The first thing we must guarantee is milk for children until their seventh year. Not all provinces get the same amount of milk. For historic reasons, some get more, and some get less. For historic reasons, in the Province of Havana children between seven and 14 years of age receive one liter of milk. In the city of Havana, it is half a liter; in the eastern provinces it is three cans of condensed milk. For some historic reason, there is a difference. Some provinces get more than others. We have been thinking about the production of a malted cereal [cereal lacteado]. This malted cereal would have the same amount of protein and all the nutrients—even a bit more—to solve the problems of the children between seven and 14 years of age. If we have a certain amount of money how can we, with that same amount of money, give the same or even more food? Or with less money for that matter. With what little money we may have.

Only recently we began talking about the possibility of a malted cereal. In some provinces this would benefit the children because a kilogram of malted cereal has more than twice the protein content in three cans of condensed milk. It would be much better to give a child, a child who gets three cans of condensed milk, a kilogram of this malted cereal. He would be getting much more. The idea is not only to give that child the same amount of nutrients; the idea is to give them more. There are different ways of giving them those nutrients. That is all part of the food issue during the most difficult times, during the most difficult phases of the special period.

I can assure you that we follow, on a daily basis, the world market price of every ton of cereal, of grain. How much do they cost? Some of those prices fluctuate. Three years ago a ton of black beans cost $1,000. Fortunately, the price is lower right now. There is a food that is very

rich in protein: lentils. Not too many people eat lentils. There are times when you can buy lentils cheaper than kidney beans. We would prefer to eat kidney beans, but if we can get more, 30 or 40 percent more out of lentils, then we will buy lentils. We have to. There is another food that our people have become accustomed to eating, chick-peas. Chick-peas are 22 percent protein. A kilogram of chick-peas has more protein than a kilogram of meat. Well, these prices also fluctuate, but it is a nutritious food that generally has a good price. Fortunately, all our students, all of those here who are under 40 years of age, have gotten used to eating chick-peas to such an extent that I know some young people who refuse to eat kidney beans because they want chick-peas. They got used to them.

We bring in, we import some food for contingents, for specific sectors. For example, we import tons of chick-peas. We even import onions. This time of year we do not have onions, but we import them for the contingents, for the construction and agricultural contingents. Of course, we will not be able to keep this up if we really make everyone a member of a contingent. As Ross said, this will have to be done based on something else, and not based on our guaranteeing each new contingent the same resources, the same dietary supplements, as we have been giving.

Now, we are planning for 1992, what we are going to do in 1992, always considering the worst-case possibilities. How are we going to guarantee food for the people? We should not forget that we also produce sugar, which contains calories. We should not ...[rephrases] We can, in my opinion, go through the special period without lowering the protein and calorie levels of the population. What is more, if we are successful with the food program, we can raise these levels of protein and calories. But we must invest the money we have now wisely, in the best way. This should be one of the principles of the special period that all of us should understand.

Why should I repeat the story we all know about the exceptional role our country is playing right now, the challenge to the Cuban nation that the collapse of the socialist bloc signifies? We are here alone facing the empire. We have to use cement, stone, sand, and gravel to build fortifications; not only building reservoirs or irrigation ditches, but also to build foxholes and shelters for the people because this imperialism is becoming more aggressive, more dangerous, as it feels itself the lone owner of the world.

So our country is forced to face an enormous challenge. But this is a challenge we have accepted, because we belong to the lineage of those who do not surrender. We belong to the lineage of those who fight, those who struggle. [applause] We belong to the lineage of those who do not become discouraged by anything, and who seek solutions. I do not think any country in history has been set such a difficult test in order to uphold its independence, uphold a system of social justice, uphold the revolution, uphold a humane form of life, uphold all those values brought to the country by independence and the revolution. We must be capable of defending these values not only with courage or bravery, but also with intelligence—courage and intelligence.

The country has been left without fertilizers. This is the kind of problem we have. We have to produce more food without animal feed or fertilizers. All the animal feed and fertilizers, the vast majority of which used to come from the USSR, no longer comes, as a rule now. I am not going to give more information about this. I explained it well at the congress. But can we count on some of that in 1992, or do we have the duty to plan 1992 as if we would not have any of that?

This year a large amount of fertilizer did not come. The vast majority of fertilizer that used to come from the USSR did not come. Gentlemen, tens and tens of thousands of caballerias of sugarcane have been left without 1 kg of fertilizer. What little fertilizer we had or produced here—we produced some nitrogenous fertilizer—or that came from elsewhere, we have had to use for rice, bananas, tubers, and vegetables, foods we get directly from the fields. But the sugarcane was left without fertilizer, and only new cane, just planted in irrigated fields, has been given what little fertilizer we have. But a large part of our cane fields this year, 1991, have not received any kind of fertilizer.

Something similar has happened with animal feed. Even if we use proteinaceous molasses—which is a source of domestic income, which is produced here—there is a certain amount of animal feed you have to use in the pig-raising plans. There is a certain amount of animal feed for the cows... [corrects himself] not the cows, the sows, the breeders, when the piglets are little. We cannot feed them with the liquid feed made from what is collected from restaurants or schools. We are no longer getting the other kind of feed.

Poultry meat production uses hundreds of thousands of tons of feed. We are no longer getting that kind of feed. We have had to import poultry meat, as much as possible. We have concentrated our efforts on keeping up egg production. Gentlemen, what must we do to keep up egg production? Egg production not only was maintained this year but increased a bit.

We do not have enough funds for all these products that no longer come to our country. I think that this gives you a clear idea—and it is important for us to have clear ideas—of how the country has been left without animal feed or fertilizer. Livestock raising has been left without feed and without fertilizer, even those places where we had very valuable breeding animals. They have been left without feed. Of course, the country's entire technology for milk production was partially based on a rational grazing system without electrified fences. When we first implemented this system in our country, we did not have high enough levels of knowledge to handle the electrified fences. We did not have the new ideas which improved all Voisin's concepts. The food for milk-producing cattle

was based on animal feed. Based on five or six liters, they received one pound of feed per liter of milk. Our dairy cattle industry has been left without feed.

The pastures have not been fertilized. There were some areas for pasturage that were fertilized. We no longer have fertilizer for the pastures. This is not really a difficult challenge under these conditions, with the battle of the food program. We have rebuilt our water management program. There are more than 30 brigades building dams. This year, in the spring, a large number of dams were completed. In Granma alone, we have three large dams: Corojo, Cautillo, and Rio Cauto. They have been completed through a heroic effort by the workers. Dozens of brigades are building canals.

There are 201 brigades working on plot drainage for sugarcane, 16 for rice. We have all the equipment for 15 more brigades, of the 40 we need to work in all the country's rice fields. We have the equipment, but it has often not been used for lack of fuel. These plot drainage brigades could have worked on 100,000 hectares of sugarcane. They have had to work on 60,000 because in January and February of this year the plot drainage brigades stopped working. The brigades working on the engineering system for rice have stopped working many times. Many of them, or almost all of them, are not working right now. They do the most work in the dry months.

Last year, at the end of the year, we had 3 million tons of fuel less. We dropped from 13 to 10 [million tons]. But even with 10 million tons, if they are well managed, we can fight, we can solve problems. This year the deliveries of fuel continued to drop. During part of the year, deliveries were on time, but in the second half of the year fuel deliveries began to drop. The country, which normally consumed 13 million tons of fuel, is now working with a level of less than 8 million tons of fuel. That is how the deliveries have been going. For next year we are calculating on still less fuel, as is logical.

You can see that it is essential to save fuel. Fuel gives us light, lights our homes, moves our vehicles, moves the agricultural machinery, moves the irrigation systems, and moves our industry or a large part of our industry. You can see how noble sugarcane is; it produces almost all the fuel it needs. Of course, now more than 800 collection centers consume more electricity and need help from the national electricity network. Sugarcane produces bagasse so that the refineries can operate, and there is some surplus for production of paper, animal feed, wood, etc.

I have mentioned all these figures once again because we must repeat them as many times as necessary so that our union officials and our country will know what conditions we have to work under, and that we have to face a difficult year in 1992. Our enemies are betting that the revolution will not endure this. I ask you: Will we be capable of handling our problems or not? [audience answers: "Yes."] They think 1992 will be the revolution's swan song. Will we be able to do it? Do you think we have enough courage to confront the problems and continue? [audience answers: "Yes."] [applause, chanting]

It is necessary for us to realize that we are suffering from a double embargo: a voluntary embargo by the imperialists, and an involuntary embargo by the USSR. I am not mentioning the socialist bloc, because it has disappeared. I must mention what is left of the USSR. So we have a double embargo. This country is under a double embargo right now, one voluntary and the other involuntary. This is the reality; these are the problems we have to face.

Now, there is an idea I want you to think about so that you will realize that certain circumstances are making our situation so difficult. Of course, one of the things the revolution has done is to mechanize. In a few years, we got rid of the cane cutters. Who wanted cane cutting as a trade, a profession? In the last century, it was the slaves who cut the cane. Then the immigrants did. We were like California or Texas or something, and they came from elsewhere to cut the cane. The Haitians and Dominicans came. That was in the initial years of the Republic. Then hunger, unemployment, was what led free Cubans... [rephrases] Cubans did not need to be roped or chained to cut cane; they did not have to be immigrants. Unemployment, that enormous figure of 500,000 or 600,000 unemployed out of a population of a little more than 6 million, forced hundreds of thousands of people to stand in line in the cane fields.

When the revolution triumphed, there were lines in the cane fields. When the revolution triumphed, it provided other opportunities to the citizens, the human beings. All kinds of jobs were created, from defense jobs—because it was necessary to defend the revolution from the powerful empire—to new industries and services; for example, schools and health. Almost 800,000 people work in those two sectors; between 700,000 and 800,000 workers provide services in those sectors. Hundreds of thousands work in construction. Cutting cane by hand ended. So we had to have volunteers do it. We asked for volunteers. So the factories and schools almost came to a halt at certain times of the year; even pre-university school students had to cut cane in Matanzas, Havana, and Camaguey.

The only solution was machinery, and so we got machinery to solve this problem, machinery and the collection centers. Who was left to plow the land with oxen? No one. So there was only one solution: mechanization. Our agriculture had to be mechanized. There was no alternative. It was mechanized. This represented great progress, and the revolution did not hesitate in this process of mechanization, because it was the only solution to the problem of the labor shortage. We mechanized almost everything. Even loading sugar onto ships was mechanized.

Preparation of the fields was mechanized. All shipping was mechanized. Construction work was mechanized. The docks were mechanized. Harvesting was mechanized, beginning with sugarcane and continuing with rice. Before the revolution, there was not a single rice combine in Cuba. After the revolution, our entire production process was mechanized. The revolution had no alternative but to mechanize. Was this a good or a bad thing? This was not good or bad; it was the only alternative the revolution had.

Now, think what a difference there is between 1959 and 1991, or 1960 and 1992. Think what a difference there is, because there is a fact without which the entire socialist bloc and the USSR could collapse and everything that has happened could happen, and we would be laughing our heads off. I think that is how it is commonly said, laughing our heads off. We would be laughing. This fact is that when the revolution triumphed, we could buy at least seven tons of oil with one ton of sugar. Seven tons of oil with one ton of sugar. [repeats] What does this mean? This means that we could now be planning for 1992 and with 2 million tons of sugar, 2 million tons of sugar, [repeats] guarantee fuel consumption of 13 or 14 million tons of oil. With only 2 million tons of sugar!

What problem would this country have right now if with only 2 million tons of sugar we could guarantee 13 million tons of fuel? But today, one ton of sugar buys 1.4 or 1.5 tons of oil. To buy that oil today we would need, at the so-called world market price.... [changes thought] which I say is the price of the world sugar dumping ground, because a lot of sugar is purchased by agreements between countries, such as those Europe has with many former colonies, as we had with the socialist countries. Today, 10 million tons of sugar would not be enough for the oil alone. The correlation of value... [corrects himself] not value, price, has changed, because oil has a monopoly price. Oil is sold at a price very much above its production cost. Those prices on the so-called world sugar market are below its production costs.

Here the fundamental factor that is affecting us in this battle is not the collapse of some countries, but that oil does not have the price... [rephrases] but that the prices of sugar and oil are not in the same correlation as in 1959, 1960, or 1961. Otherwise, we would not have to discuss what we are discussing here. But because of the process, those wars in the Middle East, the conflicts, monopoly organizations were created, and what used to buy one ton cannot even buy a single barrel. You will realize that our critical problem is fuel. It is really our Achilles heel, for this reason. That is the difference between 1959 or 1960 and now. Sugar did not have a very high price then. It was at about 3 cents per pound. At that time, with one ton of sugar you got $100, $110, or $115. So that is the most drastic change that has occurred, and it is the one that is affecting us the most.

It is not that the country has not looked for oil. We have drilled millions of meters. We have carried out geological studies for 30 years. Our hopes for oil in this country have not disappeared. For example, we have not yet prospected in our seas. In some places the geology shows very good potential for oil. Of course, the Soviets did not have the technology to drill at sea. That technology was a Western monopoly. But on land, we have done a lot of prospecting and drilling, and there is still more to be prospected. The country has not neglected for a minute everything concerning the geological search, prospecting, and trying to produce oil. We have not neglected this.

So we are going to solve these problems with no animal feed, fertilizers, and almost no oil. We must make plans for oil, we must reduce it to less than half, practically, from what the country produced ...[corrects himself] consumed under normal conditions. As I said recently, in 1868 there was no oil or electricity, when our wars for independence began. When Bolivar and the South Americans began their war for independence, even there in Venezuela where they have so much oil, there was no oil or electricity. Nature has not given our country great rivers capable of producing almost all our electricity with electric ...[corrects himself] hydraulic energy. Nature has not given our country coal reserves. Nature gave our country many forests, but when the revolution triumphed, the forests no longer existed. They were no longer a source of wood or fuel. The revolution has spent 30 years planting trees and is now beginning to harvest the first fruits of this planting. But nature has not given our country sources of energy, and the oil that we may have is there to be exploited ...[changes thought] I think this reasoning will help you understand why we need joint enterprises. Since we do not have the technology or the capital for oil exploration, we have no alternative but to establish a mixed enterprise if we want to explore and produce that oil. It is very clear. Imagine that we have some considerable amounts under the sea. How will we extract it? We have no alternative but to form a partnership with a company, an international company, a corporation, someone who has the technology and the capital to do this work.

We think that in spite of this, Comrades, we can handle the special period. We can wage and win this battle. Everything you have been doing during these two days concerns this: How to wage and win this battle in the field of agriculture. All the patriotic and revolutionary spirit you have expressed at this congress concerns this. But are there solutions? Yes, there are solutions. Can we produce more milk and beef, for example, without feed or fertilizer? Yes, that is the formula that is being implemented with the rational grazing system, improved with the use of electrified fences. This doubles and triples the availability of pastures, and improves quality to an extraordinary degree.

The sacharina from sugarcane is a result of our researchers' efforts. It forms a kind of animal feed with a high protein content. It becomes like soybeans, corn, and wheat for feeding cattle. This is a very recent discovery. We had been working on it. We have had to pass from the idea of industrially processed sacharina to sacharina processed right there at the cattle complexes. We have

the accelerated sugarcane planting plans, because the sacharina does not have to be made with the cane from the refineries, since the distance between the cane at the refineries and the cattle complexes is great and would require fuel. So we are seeking formulas.

Another formula is the protein banks. You have surely talked about this here. There was not even any seed for leguminous plants in Cuba. For many years we worked to find a leguminous plant that would adapt to the tropics. Now we have at least two. We did not even have seeds. Last year, and this year also, we bought a certain amount. By next year we will produce it all here, all the wisteria seed we need. This year we will have about 500 caballerias of wisteria and about 3,000 caballerias of leucaena. Next year we will have seed to plant as much as we want of wisteria and leucaena, only as protein banks, because with the protein from leguminous plants, a cow can produce 13, 14, or 15 liters of milk. That is something else.

But in addition, they can be mixed with forage plants. So, how do we substitute the leguminous plants for the feed? With sacharina, with fresh pastures through correct use, with much more pasturage in dairy complexes that can endure even drought periods. That is, through the application of new technology, and generalized use of electrified fences, because that is the only way of handling this grazing system in an optimal way. So we have the electrified fences, the rational grazing system, sacharina, and the protein banks. There are many other measures; I am not going to list them all.

Here you have been discussing the issue of the (jicabu). We are going to analyze this quickly, because something more needs to be added. Gentlemen, I say that never in the world has a plan been carried out as quickly as this grazing plan to solve the milk problem. Because we had to solve the problem of increasing births. This is very important and decisive. Special measures have also been taken so that where the inseminator does not work, nature can solve the problem. We have tremendous genetic potential in our livestock, to produce milk. What is needed is food. You can see how there has been an answer that requires a minimum of time, a minimum of time. [repeats] But we have not lost a minute. We are working on the rational grazing system in thousands of places.

We had a factory in Cienfuegos. We doubled its capacity to make hoses. We have built another factory in Cajimaya, where we were once going to build a steel mill. We have purchased the equipment; the machinery has already been purchased. We are installing it for a capacity to build 40,000 kilometers of hose per year.

These hoses are used with the famous bananas for microjet irrigation. These hoses are used with the famous microjet drip irrigation in the citrus groves. These hoses are used to bring water to each grazing area. As Ramon explained here, water is very important. It is important to bring in all the water the cattle will need. It must be abundant. Now it is being brought by oxen. I think you bring it with oxen, right? [answer indistinct] Now you have hoses? [answer indistinct] But before the hoses you had already gotten results. Of course, the first thing we had to do was give them the resources and the items that they know how to use. There are many of these people who have gotten results by bringing in the water by oxen. These factories produce the hoses that are also needed for the rational grazing system.

There is a program for next year to try to distribute hoses quickly to everyone. To give you an idea, every 500 grazing areas need 500 ...[corrects himself] 2,000 km of hoses. So 6,000 grazing areas need 12,000 km of hoses. [figures as heard] We must find the resources for the raw materials with which these hoses are made. Well, those two factories will produce them, to be able to maintain the whole plan for planting bananas with microjet irrigation and citrus fruit with drip irrigation, and additional capacity in case a hurricane hits somewhere. We will have surplus production capacity to be able to immediately redo the plantations, because a hurricane could uproot the plants but cannot wipe out the plantation, since the plants immediately grow new shoots. Perhaps a hurricane will knock down a few posts. Perhaps funds will have to be invested to purchase wires, of course, or hoses, for sure, whether aerial or surface.

We have been concerned about creating additional capacity in these two factories. These are matters of the special period. We also created the electrified fence factories, the windmill factory for refineries to grind the sugarcane for sacharina, the factories to produce the wires and provide the physical and chemical qualities needed so that they can function to carry electricity, little windmills to produce electricity if the system fails, if there are power outages. All this has required a set of measures.

I have spoken at length about this example, which shows the kinds of answers there can be. Now, in this same vein, the oxen. We have domesticated more than 100,000 already. We are domesticating 200,000. There are hundreds of thousands of oxen. If we have to domesticate 500,000, we will eat protein from vegetable sources. We cannot eat the oxen. We must use the oxen to cultivate the land. Now, we have discovered something new in the oxen. We always saw the oxen in the special period as someone ...[corrects himself] something that conserved fuel. But now we have discovered that oxen are something that doubles labor productivity. The contingents know this. An ox does the work of 10 men, 12 men, 15 men. When a tractor cannot be used because it has rained and the ground is wet, only an ox can be used, with its tools. So oxen not only conserve fuel, but they do work a tractor cannot do and they raise the workers' productivity. This is something new. This means that when we come out of the special period, we should not totally do away with oxen in agriculture. There you have another example that there are solutions for critical situations.

Well, what about science? It is really science that can or is making definitive contributions. All this I have told you about the rational grazing system is an application of science and technology. Oxen may be an old thing, but there is the multiple plow, which conserves almost half the fuel. There has been a revolution in agricultural implements, thanks to our scientists, with a plowing system invented in Cuba. This plow does not sow weeds. It does not stir up the soil from above or turn it upside down. Rather, it works it from below. It cuts the roots of the weeds, and as a consequence, considerably reduces the number of weeds.

You can see how an intelligent measure can reduce the use of fuel by half in preparing the fields for sugarcane, tubers, and vegetables, and prepare the land better, and work three days after it has rained. With the classic plow, you have to wait eight or 10 days. Why has Havana Province moved so quickly? Because it had multiple plows. Some time ago, months ago, we ordered multiple plows to be made, and tillers, and the parts they needed, as if we had guessed that it would rain until 10 November. This has allowed us to make great progress and conserve fuel. You can see what science is. Now we have a program for 10,000 multiple plows, about 10,000: 4,000 for tractors with rubber tires, and 6,000 for oxen. We use tractors with rubber tires because they last longer than the ones with tracks. They are more productive. But there are 6,000 smaller plows for oxen, so that one yoke or two yokes of oxen can pull it. It is a multiple plow for oxen.

All this has been done in a matter of months, comrades. I asked the scientists to solve this, because the first plows they made were big, for sugarcane. They were multiple plows to be drawn by tractors with 200-plus horsepower, or 300 horsepower. I asked for plows for the humble oxen. Engineer Bouza invented this multiple plow, which is a revolution in agriculture.

He began with some huge tractors. There was no special period. Then we said: Bouza, you have to make a multiple plow for oxen. Bouza set to work, and now we are beginning to make thousands of multiple plows for oxen. Are there, or are there not, solutions? Scientific, technical solutions. So, we lack fertilizers, but the scientists are working as quickly as possible in developing bacteria that capture the nitrogen from the air, the azotobacter. There are several crops that have their azotobacter. They are fertilized with bacteria. This is a biological fertilizer, and it provides good results. They are studying azotobacter for rice, azotobacter for pastures, azotobacter for every crop, azotobacter for every kind of soil.

The problem is complex, because sometimes when you have a different kind of soil you have to have a different variety of azotobacter. If you have a different crop, you have to have a different variety of azotobacter. But we are already producing hundreds of thousands of liters of azotobacter, and next year we may produce 8, 10, or 15 million, or however much is necessary. A torula yeast factory can be turned into an azotobacter factory. It is now a matter of packaging and distribution. There are the Centers for Reproduction of Entomophages and Entomopathogens. There are 200 in the country, and we are modernizing them rapidly. We are building the first two plants to work on them also in fermentation, for the production of fungi, bacteria, and everything. These are biological pesticides. Biopesticides, as we have called them, biological pesticides, to fight whitefly and diseases of all kinds, which even attack the pastures. I want you to know that there are pests that attack the pastures and almost destroy them.

Next year we will be in a position to produce millions of liters, and the scientists are working day and night to find these kinds and varieties of bacteria for fertilizers. Are there, or are there not, solutions? [audience answers: "Yes."] Now, the biological products factories produce seeds. All those banana plants that are yielding more than 20,000 quintals with surface microjet irrigation and more than 30,000 with aerial microjet irrigation came from factories. They were not shoots that were cut and came from the plantations with all the diseases. Now they are small pieces of tissue which through cultures make it possible to produce millions of seeds. Now our scientists are no longer working with tissue. Now they are beginning to work with cells. In the near future they will be able to produce seeds from cells. This is great progress.

Now, many of those diseases that come from the banana shoots do not come out of the biological products factory. We have built biological products factories as quickly as possible. Scientists are working at the biological products factories. The biological products factories not only produce seeds in enormous amounts ....[changes thought] The bananas we are planting in Havana Province, those 300 caballerias, the ones we have now with microjet irrigation, would never have been possible without the biological products factories. The 300 caballerias more that are going to be planted would not be possible without the biological products factories. I am talking only about Havana Province. There are some that are producing already, and look at the amount of bananas they are yielding.

This is thanks to science. But they not only work to produce seeds, as I was saying, but also to produce new varieties that are more productive, more heat-resistant, more pest-resistant. Remember that one of our problems has to do with climatic changes. Agriculture does not only have to confront that social and political disaster of the socialist bloc. Agriculture in general, throughout the world, including ours, has to confront the climatic changes. The number of rains is increasing. The temperature is getting higher during the months when we must cultivate potatoes, garlic, and tomatoes. These tissue cultures are used precisely to find new varieties quickly. This is even what we are doing with some excellent varieties of sugarcane we have, that the pests ruined. From the same cane we have sought pest-resistant varieties through tissue cultures.

Scientists are working on things like this. They are not working only to solve immediate problems. They are developing science at an impressive speed. They are developing biotechnology, the pharmaceutical industry, and they are going to create resources for the country that one day may be greater than those from sugarcane. I am not exaggerating. They are working on all fronts in medicine. The effort we made in the early years for our people's well-being is being translated today into an extraordinary resource that can help the country's economy. Our medicine has acquired worldwide prestige.

There are a number of treatments that are not done in other countries, but above all, there is our pharmaceutical industry and the new products that can directly benefit the people and can also provide important income for the country. We can say that the biotechnological field already pays for itself. It does not need capital, because it generates the capital necessary for its development. This is related to the fact that the country has created something in these 30 years that is worth more than oil, more than gold, more than anything. It has created intelligence. No, it has not created intelligence; it has developed intelligence. It has trained talent. It has trained scientists. You were able to hear some of them speak at the congress. They are the country's bright hope. I can assure you that they are working day and night, day and night, [repeats] seeking solutions.

Allow me to give an example. The Fifth Forum—I do not know what number it is—is going to take place in December. It is called the Spare Parts Forum; it is not for spare parts, but for efficiency experts, innovators, and creators. More than 30,000 presentations have already been submitted for that forum, with about 40,000 solutions. Look at what the human anthill is, working with patriotic fervor, working with the spirit of the special period, working for the revolution. Look at how they have been able to write such an extraordinary number of presentations in one year. No one would have been able to list the things they have thought of, in all fields, to conserve fuel, to replace parts, to solve problems in the special period situation.

Who is doing this? They are no longer just the scientists. There are scientists among them. There are civilian and military scientists, working on civilian and military things, but primarily, on civilian things. Many of them are of use ....[rephrases] Anything they do for a truck, it is the same for a military or civilian truck. There are the engineers, the technicians, and the skilled workers. Hundreds of thousands of people are working, searching for solutions. This is the behavior we expect of revolutionaries. This is the behavior we expect of the patriotic people of our country. These are the weapons we have to use to defend ourselves. [applause]

In recent days, for example, I heard that tens of thousands of quintals of rice were going to be ruined in Sancti Spiritus and other places because of the rains. It was already harvest time; the rice was falling. It was not a matter of fuel. There was fuel in the machines, but the machines could not go out into the fields to harvest rice that had fallen over. The men appeared. More than 2,000 workers were immediately mobilized in Sancti Spiritus to cut rice with sickles. Although that famous sickle has been taken off some flags, we have picked it up in our hands to harvest rice. [applause] But the rice was not lost. The rice was not lost in Sancti Spiritus. It was saved. This is what we have to do.

Of course, in this situation, we must manage our resources in an optimal way. What resources do we have? What resources do we have and how do we use them? How much do we have to buy for those hoses? What minimum amount of fertilizer must we buy? What research equipment? What reagents, what raw materials for these solutions we have talked about? For the rational grazing system? The materials and all for that whole program of rational grazing costs a few million dollars. We must buy the metal and other things to make the 10,000 multiple plows. So we must use each cent in the best way possible.

What minimum amount of fuel do we need? Where will we get it? Where will we get it? [repeats] For what activity is it more rational to get that minimum amount of fuel rather than using manual labor, and so we must get it? How do we get the resources we have, that we produce ourselves, when we have lost billions, billions? [repeats; unit not given] We are no longer getting goods valued at billions, with this whole catastrophe in the socialist bloc and the USSR. Because we had eliminated unequal terms of trade. We had achieved a fair exchange, as well as loans and other kinds of cooperation. Now whatever we get from our exports, or tourism here, nickel, citrus, what sugar we produce ....[changes thought] I think the world needs sugar. It is a problem that must be solved. We are major producers of sugar. Sugar has to do with two things: market and prices. Well, the Soviet people need sugar. We need fuel for the sugar harvest. Therefore, there is still a basis for some trade. There are still possibilities in this regard.

With respect to energy trade, we are now interested in primarily fuel. We will have to investigate under what conditions, in what form, we could have this trade for fuel. Now we have to deal with the republics. But since the chaos and disorganization is so extensive, the job has become more difficult, and we are forced to perform miracles. But we are working on it. No one is sitting around here with idle hands. This is our main product, sugar. But I think this would not affect only our country. Other countries would be affected. Countries that need this sugar would be affected.

I do not want to say anything further on these thoughts because the entire situation has to be handled with extreme discretion. We cannot go around disclosing everything so that the enemy does not know our ideas, so that enemy is not aware of our strategic plans. But I want to tell you that a lot of work is being done and a lot of thinking is being done. We are thinking a lot and we are

searching for formulas. We are searching for formulas to guarantee that minimum amount of fuel for the special period. This will not last a lifetime.

Someday, we will probably be thankful for the special period. Someday, we will probably be happy about the things that have happened. [applause] Many new ideas and many improvements of socialism will probably arise. We are using our heads. As I have already explained, we do not want a single factory to shut down if there is a partner who is willing to provide the raw materials, and we have the labor force and the machinery. We will analyze it all in cold blood, very cold blood, analyze where there should be a joint enterprise and where there should not be one, where one is needed and where one is not needed.

I do not think that there is a need in agriculture. I do not know. If someone comes with a plant that produces gold and says: Look, I am willing to work in a partnership with you. This is a plant that produces gold leaves. [laughter] We are willing to form a partnership with you if you can find 100 hectares. Then we will say: Where do you want those hectares? [laughter] With sugarcane, rice, and the sugar refineries, we will do it. If someone wants to invest in a refinery, for example, because the markets they have ...[rephrases] or because their clients do not have refineries, and we do not have the capital for a refinery, well, we will be partners in that deal, agreed.

We are very rational, very practical. But we know what we keep for ourselves, what we have, and what development we should carry out under current conditions, building socialism under these conditions, under the guidance of the party, under the guidance of the working class, and with a country that is its own master and the master of its future. This is not a country that has been put up for sale, but offers are flowing in; they are flowing in. We have an entire group of people analyzing everything that is being thought of. There is a capitalist who says: I do not like to see a deal go by without grabbing for it. He says that his specialty is to see where there is a deal. Not here, in the world, they say: Look, there is a deal.

We have really been messed up, comrades, to put it vulgarly. I was talking about energy matters, and when I talked about energy, I did not talk about nuclear power. How many years, and how many thousands of men, have worked there, have sacrificed themselves, at the Cienfuegos Nuclear Power Plant? Now this is uncertain; we do not know what its future will be. Hundreds of millions of pesos have been invested in it. Hundreds of millions of pesos have been invested in the Cienfuegos oil refinery, and suddenly what? There is no oil for the refinery. There is nothing certain regarding the nuclear power plant. This forces us to think a lot, and work a lot, and search for solutions.

To the extent that we find them, we will become a better country. To the extent that we find them, we will become a more independent country. Here more than ever, the words economic independence are taking on meaning. We are going to achieve it through the miracles of intelligence, and the miracles of human sweat, and the human heart, and human awareness. We will search for resources that perhaps we would never have searched for if we had not gone through this kind of situation. It is true that we were working in science. What we have today is not just by chance. It is true that we were working in biotechnology and medicine. There were some ignorant people around who criticized this, saying: What is that for? We have discovered extraordinary potential.

In another field, we are building causeways, joining hundreds of kilometers of beaches, some of which are like the beach at Varadero. We are working as quickly as possible, at a pace we might never have achieved without the special period. Would so many innovations, so many ideas, so many solutions, so much conservation in every sense, have arisen without the special period, without these problems?

Would the multiple plows, the biological pesticides, the biological fertilizers, and all those techniques we are developing have been produced so quickly, if it was not for this challenge? That is why I say that the most important resource is intelligence. This is the most important weapon the country has today, joined, of course, with the primary thing: our workers' patriotism, their awareness, their revolutionary spirit, their will to struggle and win. That is the key. That is the primary thing. Without that, science could not do anything. All these possibilities can become a reality to the extent that we have the ability to resist and struggle.

We had been carrying out our rectification process for some time, immediately after the previous congress. Listen, what a crime it is that all these things have happened in the middle of the rectificaton process. Even though I say that someday we will probably be glad, I think that it has to hurt one terribly that many of the things we have been doing have come to a halt. We had revived our water management program. It has been revived and is working. We had revived the minibrigades, and they were being fully developed. We were doubling and tripling our production capacity for construction materials. We were building ....[rephrases] We had built 110 child care centers in two years in Havana alone, with a capacity for 24,000 children when there was a need for 19,000. Of course, when people had a hope of having a child care center, the demand increased again. The social programs we were carrying out: child care centers, special schools, polyclinics everywhere, trade schools for the children who were still wandering the streets, housing. The housing program we were carrying out: the number of factories for cement blocks, bricks, and tiles we built in a short time when the rectification process began; the increased capacity at cement factories; the plans for new factories; the increase to almost triple the capacity to produce steel for construction.

These are the things we were doing under the rectification process, gradually, gradually. [repeats] I think that it was wise to do things in an orderly way, and the problem of rationality, the rational use of our human resources, was one of the very important things we had to resolve. We had to overcome a number of negative trends that had developed, in the incorrect copying of other people's procedures, and sometimes in the poor implementation of some of the good things some copies might have had. We were fighting against all these phenomena, with great expectations, to solve many problems.

Let no one think we have given that up; not at all. We have to go through this stormy and difficult phase to then return to all that with much greater strength. We will return to all that. We will return with much greater strength. Now we must survive. We must save the nation, the revolution, and socialism. But look at how many good things were appearing. The contingents were new, the idea of the contingents. We began with a scientific center, practically, when we began with the concept of multiple job assignments. The hypothetical staffing was greatly rationalized. Well, there was not even any hypothetical staffing; since that center was opened, we have used these ideas. Based on that experience, a few years ago we created the first construction contingent. We already had over 60 contingents. We created the first industrial contingent at the Milian factory, a construction materials factory.

The results have been impressive. They have now completed two years. Unfortunately, I have not been able to visit them recently. I think I owe them a visit. Those workers carried out a tremendous rationalization, the same workers who were there. They went from producing 4,000 pesos worth per year to producing more than 20,000 pesos worth per year. The results of that first industrial contingent have been impressive. It has existed for two years there and continues there with very high morale. But the creation of agricultural contingents and the mobilizations are also impressive.

It is impressive how the capital has responded, in spite of the fact that at this time last year, we were building camps. The camps had yet to be built. The people had even lost the memory of how to work in the fields. There was great disorganization in agriculture, very bad habits of all kinds, as a result of the negative phenomena that we were rectifying. These were matters of structure, organization, phenomena involving large numbers of people, and they still exist, but we are overcoming them. In the central government offices, there was an enormous underutilization of human resources. There were unnecessary structures.

Over the course of a year—I am more familiar with this because of what I have heard here—this has been done in the livestock raising sector. There were surplus people in livestock raising, which is curious. These surplus people are now working intensely in building the rational grazing system, but there was no one working on the vegetable crops.

We had 1,700 caballerias and 1,900 workers, and the number was decreasing. The grass grew wild, Don Carlos weed grew, reproduced, and grew stronger. And the fields were empty. The phenomena we saw with the sugarcane came later with this type of work which is also very hard. No one wanted to pull the blite [bledo], Don Carlos, and all those weeds, chive [cebolleta], etc. Driving a tractor, that yes. That is much more....[changes thought] Moving, it is life in movement. It is a kind of job that is associated to the vertigo of speed, mechanics, the mysteries of mechanics. But doing the work an agricultural worker must do? That concept was being lost despite the mistake that was being corrected. The agricultural worker was being paid low wages, and this was being corrected. A whole system of rules. There were as many rulers as rules. The grass grew in all sizes. It was madness. So we implemented other ideas when we organized the construction sector. What a man should do is more or less known. How many trips can you get out of a truck? That depends on the distance. You have to forbid the driver from speeding. You cannot encourage the driver to make more trips because he could get killed, people could get killed and the equipment destroyed.

A road was being built. What they needed was discipline, new methods of organization, leadership, discipline, and remuneration. The first contingents established did not want extra hours. I asked them: What extra hours? You have established a 12-hour schedule for yourselves. What extra hours do you want? If you work 12 hours you get paid for 12 hours. If you work 13 or 14 hours you get paid for 13 of 14 hours. And that is that. But we told the first contingent that we did not want voluntary work. We told them that voluntary work was not allowed except on Sunday. We did not want them to do more than they were already doing. Only on Sunday were they allowed to do voluntary work. And we are not against voluntary work. No. But a contingent is a contingent. The contingents have their multi-assignments and style of work that cannot compare with other styles of work.

Later came the idea of attention to man. It became an important concept. We felt it was absurd to ask a man: Sleep on the floor and I will pay you regular wages; eat in a pigsty and I will pay you regular wages. It was clear that attention to man had to be a top priority, and attention to man does not only include covering his material needs. Man's personal and human needs must also be taken into consideration. Saying hello to him, asking him about his sick child, remembering that he has a birthday, that he is this and that. As they say around there, or as some say has been said around there, man does not live by bread alone. Man also lives on spirit bread. Improving his food and general living conditions is not enough. This man needs to see proof of respect and appreciation for the work he is doing. Material things have a psychological effect on man. He feels part of a family. I am filled with admiration when I visit those agricultural contingents. I see the workers together. They live together like a big family. Some construction contingent workers live at home and others in shelters. But

the members of the agricultural contingent live on the job. What a sense of brotherhood, family. They are proud people.

You can also see this among the mobilized workers. We could have fought to have everyone become a member of a contingent. We would have 60 or 65 contingents, but we chose the mobilizations. We wanted the city of Havana to participate. It was necessary, it was fitting that the city participate. We needed some camps for the mobilized people and I admire those people who go to these camps for 15 days. These people do not have callouses on their hands. They get to the camps, begin to work, get blisters on their hands. They get to the camps and face long, hard hours of work. They must be admired and they have done a good job. They are truly admirable people. [applause] I have seen people who work in offices there. There are even some whose jobs include providing certain services that we cannot go without. They complain, get bitter, and fight until they are allowed to go to the camps for at least a week or two a year. The sacrifice they make, but how proud they become when they test themselves and find out that they can do the work. That is something we must admire. We have seen this among our people. Many of the mobilized people have gone to the camps two and three and four times in one year. They are becoming veterans. They undoubtedly do not have the experience of a contingent worker who has been working for two years. That is impossible. They cannot achieve the level of organization or efficiency of a contingent. That is impossible. They cannot achieve that level of experience. There are jobs for which some training and experience are needed. This is what the contingents have.

The mobilized people really protect what they plant. How they hate the thieves. How they hate those people who love to walk by and extend the arm, pick a bunch of plantains and put it in a truck. We saw much of that and you know it. And how they have influenced the other workers. The agricultural worker has been filled with honor and pride and they do not want to be less that a mobilized worker or a contingent. For the first time the number of workers at the diverse crops enterprises began to increase. The diverse crops enterprises are beginning to emerge as model enterprises. They are beginning to emerge as model enterprises, they are not model enterprises yet. They are beginning to emerge as models of a truly advanced agriculture. The peasants cannot help but be surprised when they see the plantain grown with the aerial microjet irrigation system or ground microjet irrigation system. We are beginning to see large crops.

We have learned from the experience of some outstanding farmers. We wish all our farmers were outstanding. But we know a few of them, and we even have a group of advisers who are farmers and are like our innovators and rationalizers. They have invented things. We have used their experience. We have asked them to teach others what they know.

Then we have the work we are doing with seeds. There is a difference between planting a sweet potato liana and a special sweet potato seed. With the sweet potato lianas we have found that 30 to 40 percent of them do not produce sweet potatoes, whereas the special seed can give us up to 10,000 quintals of sweet potato. This is something some farmers knew; unfortunately, not all of them. Some farmers. They know how to prepare the seed. They used lime to kill certain pests. These are techniques that we are using today. The members of cooperatives, who work very much like enterprises, are beginning to admire the results of the work being done by diverse crops enterprises. We no longer have that inefficient and careless state. You take your hat off, not once but three times, when you see a caballeria that produces 30,000 quintals of plantain. We will attain the same with all our products. Some day the citrus crops in Ceiba will triplicate. Instead of producing 60,000 tons it will be producing 180,000 tons. The 500 or 600 caballerias planted with citrus will all have the microjet irrigation system or the drop irrigation system. This will be done at a rate of 100 caballerias each year. This year they are a bit behind, but the technique is being applied. The right seed is being used and we are beginning to see results. We can also see the presence of manpower in that area. That manpower is being shared with the cooperatives. We help some cooperatives that do not have enough manpower. There are times when this manpower is also shared with the farmers, even though the private farmer can more or less hire temporary workers. But we also give them a hand.

The contingents and the mobilized workers have influenced the schools in rural areas. They have truly influenced these schools. I know some cases, such as the school Brigade 30 that the Blas Roca Contingent has. You should see those children, how they have changed. We had somewhat neglected the idea of work in education. It was being viewed as unimportant. But it was practically all we had left in the rural areas for the planting of diverse crops. We can see the changes in the schools that are taken into the rural areas; those schools that are moved for a month. Changes are seen everywhere. The technicians have a different outlook on what their work is. The scientists who have moved into the rural areas have a different outlook of their work. They are working together with the enterprises. Everyone is at his combat post. That is the special period for you, and that is the way we must work within socialism in the future, without today's anxieties and restrictions. We must acquire new habits. Turning many pre-university centers into schools, and training qualified workers in agriculture are very important steps. Subjectively speaking, we have been doing new things and finding new formulas. We must realize that if we want food, the agricultural worker will have to receive better wages. If necessary, the agricultural worker will get paid more than other workers. If we want food, we must pay those who are producing it. That is logical. These are ideas.

We know, of course, that today money is not the answer. As you already know, today there is more money than

things to buy. Today patriotism is worth much more than money. But the day will come when we will have things to buy, more things to buy with the money. For that, the method of payment will be important. But I know that the work the contingent workers do they do not do for money. I saw this among the construction contingent workers. I saw what those men did. That is not done for money. The hours they put into their work they put in only because they wanted to help their country, because they had a great sense of awareness. Remuneration is part of the social consideration the worker deserves. If we do not establish the principle that the agricultural worker must be the best paid, then everyone will want to be an engineer, professor, philosopher.

You know as well as I do that the children of farmers and agricultural workers left the rural areas. They went to primary school, then to secondary school, pre-university, and university; joined the Revolutionary Armed Forces or the Ministry of Interior; or acquired a certain technical knowledge and left the rural areas. It seemed that no one appreciated what they were doing. We must make agricultural work one of the most honorable tasks among our people; the most encouraged and most appreciated task within our society. [applause] That is all part of the idea of rectification and the rectification measures in the special period that cannot be the same, or yield the same results, as during normal times.

There are some agricultural products that are sold for extremely low prices. No matter how efficient the work, the prices do not make these crops profitable. Not profitable, I am not talking profit. Simply put, not subsidizable. Those products are sold for very high prices. We already know what the free farmers market was like. Gentlemen, one sweet potato cannot be sold for 6 centavos, that is when we have enough sweet potatoes. They are going to feed chickens and pigs with sweet potato. In one caballeria of sweet potato you have to cut and plant 600,000 lianas. How many hours do you need to plant them? There is no machine that will do that work. After that you must care for it, irrigate it, and harvest it. When it is raining you have to use a stick to get it. There is no machine that will do that. The same thing happens with yucca.

We want to increase production and we are going to increase it, but not to raise animals. In addition, we want to have a solid economic base. We have already increased the wholesale prices of many of those products. But we must also change the prices of some agricultural products. This will also give us an economic base. It is not fair that industrial products are expensive and agricultural products are cheap and that people should be encouraged to waste these products. That is why we will continue to work.

We are now going to start planting tomatoes on stakes. How much does this cost? The comrade from Mariano talked about his two caballerias. They had to go into the Pinar del Rio mountains to cut 1 million stakes. One man can cut up to 500 stakes in a day. There were some who could cut up to 1,000 stakes in a day. Gentlemen, 2,000 man days to cut the stakes that you need to plant two caballerias of tomatoes. This will produce three and four times the normal amount of tomatoes and it is a tomato of much better quality. Therefore, we must do it. This was brought up during the congress even though we have not followed a price policy to solve financial problems. We have not sought the famous balance, but rather have rationalized distribution. Do you know how much work is involved in the picking of a quintal of okra? I know. Not because I have picked it, but because I have visited the people who are picking it. I know that they must pick the okra before 1100. You should see their hands. They itch. The people at the (Liliana Dmitrova) Center are trying to develop an okra with fewer spines. That is their work. They want to develop a better okra with fewer spines.

Do you know how much work is involved in the picking of string beans? I saw the people picking string beans in July and August. I saw colossal numbers of mosquitoes and insects fly out from under the string bean plants. People have no idea what it takes to pick a quintal of string beans. And do you know how much that quintal of string beans sells for? We must give these products a price that is comparable to its cost. We must have the produce. As we increase production we will readjust prices. You will have the produce. I was telling you about the Blas Roca Contingent. They are going to sell it [words indistinct] different price. They get the table, organize it all, and provide transportation. All the people care for, of course, is getting the produce.

A surplus of plantain will also help us, once we have a surplus of plantain. Once we have a surplus of plantain, once the people have eaten all the plantain they want, what is left over must be exported. We are not producing plantain for export purposes, but no one will be able to eat the large amounts of plantains we are getting from those caballerias. In addition to what we already have planted, we are going to start planting more plantains in Ciego de Avila. We are going to do this in case we are hit by a hurricane. In this way we will have a sort of national reserve of plantain in Ciego de Avila. These will also be plantains grown with microjet irrigation. If we have a surplus we will export them.

We must look for quality. Staked tomato is expensive. A million (?stakes). After tomatoes, we are going to plant a new, good variety of staked string beans. This variety of string bean yields three times the normal amount and is of much better quality. But we are going to have to adjust some prices, some retail prices. We have already adjusted the wholesale products. What we are interested in is having the products. The people will not be lacking money. Not money. Money is what everyone has the most of, well not everyone. We know that.

The revolution has left no one out in the streets. It has not followed a price policy to solve financial problems, but rather to rationalize the agricultural sector, to be able

to give the agricultural worker proper remuneration. If costs are not increased and subsidies not given to the agricultural sector, we will have to do some price amending because we are running the risk, with some products, of the producer giving up and choosing to raise chickens and pigs. With a sweet potato being sold at 6 centavos, anyone would realize that it would be great to feed that sweet potato to the pigs.

I am taking this opportunity to address these matters. It is necessary that we stop and think about all this. I know that you want to promote the spirit of contingents. The spirit you have. You want to organize contingents. You have suggested this at this congress; it has practically been the center of this congress. This commits us to studying this idea, not make a decision at this moment. We have to study the situation; where it can be done, how it can be done, how it can be implemented. We may not have the necessary material conditions to guarantee to all the contingents....[changes thought] We have guaranteed the ones we have now. We have to keep them. The country is even importing products to maintain what the contingents have at this moment. We view the food matter as very important. But right now we would not have the money if I were told that we have 200,000 workers, 100,000 workers, 50,000 workers organized into contingents. We would not be able to guarantee them the supplies that we must currently guarantee for approximately 80,000 workers. We do not have the resources for that.

The important thing is....[changes thought] Ross, you were telling me that they know that is not the problem. It is not even the same thing. But we could study different ways of remuneration, similar to the ways the contingents are remunerated. We should study ways to apply all the good experiences of the contingents. We must study ways to do it, because it would be right. Ross, under no circumstances can we forget that idea.

I have seen some construction contingents and I have criticized them. I believe some construction contingents have not earned the right to be contingents. I am talking of some, not all. All the new contingents are good. Some of the old contingents, those that were already organized, are very good; but there are some about which I would even say that their status as contingents should be withdrawn because all the work has not been done. No demands were made of them and the spirit that should prevail in a contingent was not present. I agree, and I am glad to hear that you want to bring that experience to the agricultural sector. When our agricultural sector becomes like the construction sector, and someday it will be based on these ideas and their labor discipline, then that day we are going to have colossal resources. I already gave you the example of productivity.

In some of the hotels we have, the new hotels, they are practically under a contingent regime, almost. Something similar is happening at the joint enterprise hotels. They have been very successful; they have been very successful. [repeats] Of course, working at a hotel is much nicer than other places. It will be a great day when we can take the spirit of contingents to the industrial sector. But we have a few with all the conditions; I mean, with all the tools. If we extend the idea, it is very important that the idea not be discredited, Ross. We have to take care of the idea more than anything. We must go step by step.

I have not lost hope that one day we will have the whole country organized this way. That is the productivity we are going to have, the organization. It has nothing to do with the use of material resources, human resources. This is socialism. We will then have to work less hard. This is not for a lifetime. It is for a country that has to develop. We cannot afford to live like the English who took three centuries to develop. They plundered their colonies, right? We could cite how the European countries developed; the ones that owned colonies. Not all of them, and not all of it was the result of plundering, but a large part of it was a result of plundering the Third World countries. As they developed, they made the rest of the world underdeveloped.

So a country that has to develop ....[changes thought] Today we have two tasks. Today our number one task is to survive. Our number two task is to develop. I think we are doing both things, whatever our deprivations may be because the new industry we are building, the biotechnology, are tremendous industries. Everything new we are doing is tremendous, even though we have had to halt a lot of programs. The hotels we are building are fantastic, even though we cannot work on the child care centers right now. We cannot. These needs will be taken care of later, in the future, again.

Now, what we have done is extend the number of months the mothers can stay at home before the children come to child care centers. We could extend it even more. If we want we could extend it to one year. We have that possibility. Now we have to build hotels because we need the hard currency the hotels will give us, or the factories we are building. This is understood perfectly well. Or the machinery to make hoses, or the raw materials to make hoses, or the minimum amount of fertilizer some crops need, because we cannot produce enough from the biological fertilizers. But someday we will return to the programs we were carrying out. Someday we will return to the possibility of fully implementing the concepts we were carrying out, in an orderly way.

This rectification process was marked by common sense. You cannot do rectification or any changes or any improvement in a society if you start by destroying the country's history. Imagine if we had begun to destroy the country's history, begun to ignore the country's martyrs and heroes, those who gave their lives for the cause of the nation, independence, and the revolution; those who died at the Bay of Pigs; those who died in the Escambray; those who died fulfilling internationalist missions. Imagine if we ignored them, forgot them, and even

condemned them. You cannot improve anything by destroying the country's history.

You cannot improve anything in socialism by destroying the party. You cannot improve anything by destroying the state. If you destroy the history of your country, if you destroy the party that has carried out the revolution, if you destroy the state, the authority and prestige of the party and state, what can you do? What could we do without history and the values the revolution is based on?

What could we do without the party, the Union of Young Communists, the mass organizations? What could we do without the labor movement? What could we do without the unions? Could we be meeting here as a single family, following a line, a banner, a clear course for all? We did not do that. On the contrary, we raised the party's authority, the mass movement's authority, the state's authority, our moral values, the values of our history. Our rectification process has been done this way, and we are still doing it like this. I would say that this is a rectification process adapted to the conditions of the special period. That is our situation.

It is under these conditions that this congress of yours has been held. It is under these conditions that the students will also meet, the intermediate-level students, the young people, the new generation. They are the ones our enemies would like to infiltrate. They are the ones our enemies would like to confuse. They are the ones for whom our enemies would like to smuggle in all the garbage of the bourgeois, capitalist world. It is under these conditions that the spare parts forum will be held.

This congress has really taken place at a historic time for our nation. But this is a task for men and women. When I say men, I mean human beings with special qualities. This is a task for giants. This is a task for heroes. You cannot endure a double embargo without a heroic spirit. A nation cannot confront that gigantic enemy unless it is a nation of giants, unless it is a nation of true patriots, of true revolutionary spirit. No one is discouraged by those who have been misled, the incorrigible, the weak-kneed, the weak-spirited. They will always exist everywhere.

We should feel encouraged by seeing so many who are full of courage, patriotism, and spirit. We should feel proud of knowing that we have millions of men and women like you in this country. [applause] Because this is what gives us the certainty that we will victoriously handle the problems of today, that we will pass through this very special period, that we will find solutions, that we will save the nation and socialism. And we will be able to say, with every right and with the deepest conviction, our glorious slogan of: Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win! [applause, chanting]

I am very glad to have been able to spend a few hours with you. Now I am going to fulfill other commitments. I will be on time, do not worry. We have discussed everything, even the jicabu. [meaning unknown] We have been lucky to have Herrera [not further identified] here to give us an explanation, and he has promised to continue to discuss these technological things. So no idea has been lost out there, and everything that could be done has been done. I am also glad that at least the representatives of the contingents have been here.

Unfortunately, the enterprise representatives are not here. Their work has improved a lot. There has been a tremendous change. It can be seen everywhere. This year, the enterprises are producing 50 percent more than last year. In 1992, the eight agricultural enterprises should produce double what they produced in 1990. Since we will still be planting bananas in 1993, or possibly doing some things in 1993, or some of those things that are planted in the middle or the second half of 1992 will not begin to produce until the second half of 1993, in two more years, the vegetable crops enterprises should quadruple their production of 1990.

I can assure you that they can produce that on their 42,000 hectares. There are 42,000 hectares; 22,000 are owned by the state, 10,000 by the agricultural production cooperatives, and about 10,000 by the individual farmers. Those 42,000 hectares are enough to produce more tubers and vegetables and this kind of food than can be consumed by the 3 million inhabitants of Havana and Havana City Province. I can assure you of this from all the calculations we have made. There is always the danger of a hurricane, but for that kind of danger you have to have something else. You have to have other plantations in other places, and calculate how much the fuel costs, and if this expense must be made [words indistinct]. We may have some situations like that.

But the enterprises—and this says a lot about the work that has been done—this year almost all the enterprises have produced 50 percent more than last year. Some have produced more. I am sure that in 1992 they will at least produce double that of 1990. We are now starting to see the results. People have much more experience. They know what you have to do with the potatoes, exactly when you have to plant them, and how to harvest them, how to prevent mechanical damage, what the cold-storage centers have to be like to conserve the potatoes. A lot of potatoes were lost this year just because of climate problems and mechanical damage during the harvest.

Then they rotted. It was not cold enough. Carrots will now also be planted in their season. Eggplant will be planted in January and February, because if you do not, in May you have a little tiny plant this big. Planting schedules have been improved a lot, in order to plant everything at the right time.

There has been a tremendous change in what you can see right now at these vegetable crops enterprises, or what you can also see with the livestock, the work that is being done. We are not yet seeing the results, because it is very important that the men be like Tutu [not further identified] who handles the grazing system. A man comes there

when they have to do what they call the jump [move the cattle from one grazing area to another] and do the things that must be done.

It is very important. They have been doing great work in training the workers for this rational grazing system. Workers are the decisive factor. We are already beginning to see the results. In October, I think the province produced something like 500,000 quintals. How much was it, Basulto? How much did the province produce?

[Basulto] In October the province produced 470,000 quintals.

[Castro] That was 470,000. And how much is calculated for November?

[Basulto] More or less the same, Commander. As you explained, with the cold the bananas [word indistinct] a little.

[Castro] Because of the cold? This will delay it how much, a few days, a week?

[Basulto] Yes, [passage indistinct]

[Castro] Some 200,000 quintals in what period?

[Basulto] This year in October [words indistinct]

[Castro] Oh, 150, right. Well, you have a photo album for me? [applause, chanting]

Six People Sentenced in 'Example-Setting Trials'

PA2711183391 Paris AFP in Spanish 1951 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, Nov 26 (AFP)—The "example-setting trials" of people involved in black market activities, which started in Havana last week, are continuing. Six clandestine operators of illegal bars in a populous Havana neighborhood have been tried and sentenced.

The places are real "speakeasies" [previous word in English] and are commonly known as "secret drinks" [tiros clandestinos]. They operate in private homes and are frequented by clients who are recommended for their discretion and who get together to talk, drink, and even have a bite to eat.

According to a 26 November National News Agency (AIN) dispatch, the "very brief trials" were attended by neighborhood residents and at them "it was proven that these individuals were illegally selling scarce products such as snack foods, beer, and rum."

The trials were held in downtown Havana, a heavily populated urban area, and sentences varied between four months and a year in jail and fines, AIN noted.

"For example, the police found 120 hamburgers, 80 ham sandwiches, cases of full and empty beer bottles, and even a live pig" in the homes of the people sentenced, the dispatch added.

"The Prosecutor's Office strictly condemns the hoarding of products, especially at a time when many food products are scarce. The people sentenced were speculating with the products to profit at the expense of others," it asserted.

The first "example-setting trials" of "candongueros" (black market operators) were held early last week. The people involved in this activity were recently arrested by police on the popular Malecon Avenue, close to the sea in Havana.

Residents also attended these trials and, as in the case of the "speakeasies" [previous word in English] in downtown Havana, the judges convened the court near the area where the arrests had been made.

Health Vice Minister Reports on AIDS Cases

PA2711170191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0445 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, 26 Nov (EFE)—Cuban Health Vice Minister Hector Terry affirmed on 26 November that 54 persons have died of AIDS on the island, while another 40 people are ill, enduring various phases of the disease, and 692 others are carriers of the virus.

The predominant group of people who are either ill or are carriers of AIDS are homosexuals and bisexuals, 259 patients ranging in age from 20 to 24 years old.

Health officials have expressed their concern about the increase in the number of young people (in the 15 to 19 age range) infected with AIDS or 33.4 persons out of every 1 million people.

Terry and a group of experts participated in a television debate on 26 November on the disease called: "AIDS Has No Face." The debate included dramatic testimony by people in the terminal phase of the disease.

The director of the program, Lucia Gonzalez, had to use subtitles for some of the interviews because the voices of some of the patients close to death was inaudible.

Among the doctors who participated in the program was Juan Carlos Concepcion, who works in Cuba's most important sanatorium and who is a carrier of the virus. He said that he is trying to be "a doctor and a patient and to provide counseling" as he awaits death.

Doctors, patients, and relatives agreed to urge young people to take care of themselves and not be promiscuous.

The University of Havana has organized a concert to take place on 30 November to promote awareness of the disease among young people on the eve of international AIDS Day.

So far Cuba has carried out almost 12 million AIDS tests among the population.

Agricultural Development Enters Crucial Phase

PA2711193691 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] Cuban agriculture is going through a crucial phase in its evolution after more than 30 years of applying various development methods that culminated in achievements and sometimes in mistakes.

At a time when food supplies from the Soviet Union—Cuba's main supplier—have diminished, agriculture must become more efficient because of its role in the people's survival.

It is impossible not to start the government food program, a program that consists of a series of initiatives and methods intended to give priority attention to the farming sector that produces the staples in the Cuban people's diet.

Labor forces in peasant zones have been encouraged to work efficiently, take full advantage of the working day, be disciplined, and maintain strict quality control over their work.

Cuban party leaders have emphasized that peasants—whether working on their own or for state-owned cooperatives—and people mobilized from the city to the country must be sufficiently motivated morally to carry out the agricultural strategy in a satisfactory manner.

Aside from equally satisfying the needs of all Cubans, the food program is the basis for the success of other very important national plans such as tourism, the medical-pharmaceutical industry, and biotechnology. These are the basic pillars of the country's survival and development in a very difficult phase known in Cuba as the special period during times of peace.

The agricultural zones should also produce essential products to feed tourists, the number of which is increasing annually, and supply certain raw material used by Cuban scientists for experiments and research.

This is why now, more then ever, Cubans are convinced that intelligence and determination must be closely linked to boost the agricultural sector.

Agriculture Ministry To Build Multiplows

FL2811135991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Approximately 14,000 multiplows—10,000 animal-pulled and 4,000 to be adapted for use with lightweight tractors—will be built at the Ministry of Agriculture shops. The country has already invested a certain amount of money to import the sheets of steel and other materials that will ensure the production of this important piece of equipment. In addition, 10,000 two-wheeled open carriages will be built to transport technical personnel to and from the farms. This will replace the use of cars and help save energy.

Workers Mobilized To Work in Tomato Planting

FL2711172991 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Between 2 and 7 December, approximately 3,600 Havana residents will leave to plant tomatoes in Los Palacios and Consolacion del Sur in Pinar del Rio. The mobilized workers will be housed in 10 camps while working to plant approximately 370 caballerias as part of this campaign.

The number of Havana residents to be mobilized will total 17,000 and they will work mainly in growing tomatoes. Right now, the camps are being prepared for this work effort. These camps will have gardens for the consumption of the residents. Medical attention will be available 24 hours a day.

This is the second time workers from Havana City will work in the southern region of Pinar del Rio Province. This time they will work on this plantation until the end of April 1992 when the tomato harvest will be completed.

CDR Select Vacant Lots for Collective Gardens

FL2711182491 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] in Holguin have begun selecting vacant lots with the purpose of developing collective gardens as a method of promoting family self-sufficiency.

Fertile land not in use will be assigned to the CDR in zones for turber, grain, and orchard product planting. Aramis Jorge Alvarez, member of the CDR Provincial Secretariat in Holguin, said that collective gardens are a better way to cultivate small areas in response to the guidelines established regarding such matters during the Fourth Communist Party of Cuba Congress.

Spanish Machines, Advisers Arrive at Factory

FL2811020991 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The Juan de Matarreyes Cigarette Factory in Trinidad, Sancti Spiritus Province, has received the first five machines from Spain to be set up in our country. They will later form part of a factory such as those being built in Holguin and Granma. Reporter Rafael Daniel has also reported that Spanish advisers have arrived at the factory in Trinidad as well. They will train the workers who will operate this equipment. The Spanish advisors will also set up the equipment and bring it into operation.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker] The machines are good. We have had them for many years and they are very good (?machines). These are machines that—how shall I put it—these are all-purpose machines. These are machines that do everything, and I think they will give very good results here in Cuba. Time will give us proof of this.

[Second unidentified speaker] We have brought machines that have a higher productivity for this enterprise. With them, we can increase the enterprise's levels of production. [end recording]

The Juan de Matarreyes Cigarette Factory was chosen for training the personnel for future factories in the eastern region because of the expertise and results of the workers there. These workers obtain the best results in the country, in spite of the fact that they are operating machinery dating from the turn of the century, because of their great technical efficiency. Their machinery will be replaced in the near future by other machinery that has higher productivity.

Gas Plant on Isle of Turiguano Operational

FL2811170091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The biggest biogas plant in the country, built on the Isle of Turiguano, Ciego de Avila Province, began to supply gas to El Salado community, located near the plant. Shortly, the biogas plant will begin to supply gas to the town of Celia Sanchez Manduley. This will be done through a special 2 km-long gas pipeline. Once the plant becomes fully operational and produces 2,000 cubic meters of gas—equal to one ton of oil—a day, this service will also be provided to the workers mess halls at the Isle of Turiguano Cattle Enterprise.

Transportation Minister Outlines Strategy for 1992

FL2811232591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] In a detailed briefing, Division General Senen Casas, minister of transportation, outlined 1992 transportation strategies, as well as the need for logical solutions to the various problems that could arise. Casas pointed out that the ideas being used in many other provinces should be implemented to obtain maximum efficiency of the equipment in Havana. Senen Casas also suggested alternatives that could provide higher efficiency, such as the technique of emulsification and the use of magnetizers, which have not yet been used in buses of the capital.

UN To Discuss World Economic Order Resolution

FL2711220491 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The UN General Assembly will soon discuss a draft resolution presented by Cuba, with the support of 25 other countries, on rules and principles that should govern the new world economic order. According to the document, the resolution proposes the establishment of a working group at the commission level to develop the rules and principles of international law regarding the new world economic order. The proposal, which was co-sponsored by 26 countries, was approved by the UN General Assembly's Sixth Legal Commission with 76 votes in favor, 18 against, and 18 abstentions; 54 countries were not present for the vote.

The document proposed by Cuba at the United Nations considers that the General Assembly should discuss the impact of the current international economic situation on underdeveloped countries.

'Limited Sovereignty' Criticized at UN Committee

FL2811153091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Cuba has criticized the so-called limited sovereignty that some countries defend with proposals such as the right for interference, humanitarian aid, and electoral assistance. These are all excuses to meddle in the internal affairs of states. Speaking before the UN Humanitarian, Social, and Cultural Affairs Committee, Cuban delegate Ivan Mora Godoy criticized the attitude of developed countries that present charges against the underdeveloped nations but do not mention the human rights violations occurring in their own countries.

Forty Haitians Leave Island for United States

FL2811143091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] After receiving medical treatment, food, and other services for free, 40 of the 720 Haitians who are being housed in a camp on Maisi Point have left the country for the United States. The residents of that Caribbean country were taken to Miami in three boats. One of the 40 Haitians who left for Miami is a survivor of the 19 November capsizing of a sailboat during which 130 people died and others are still missing.

Meanwhile, another boat with 43 Haitians on board reached the coast of Baracoa. This is the sixth boat to reach the Cuban coast in less than a week. A few days ago, four boats reached the areas of Rio Jiguani, Bahia de Mata, and Guandao. These boats had approximately 260 people on board. They are all fleeing poverty and increased repression in Haiti since the military coup against Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Many die in the crossing, as did many of those who were on the sailboat that capsized on 19 November. They attempted the crossing in a boat that was too small for the approximately 200 persons on board. One of the 60 survivors of that accident died. Meanwhile, the others are receiving medical treatment for injuries suffered during the accident or for medical problems they had when they arrived on the island.

Official Says Haitians Not To Be Repatriated

PA2811150291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Acting Vice Foreign Minister Lazaro Mora informed this radio station that, in keeping with humanitarian agreements, Cuba will not forcibly repatriate Haitians. They will be offered food and medical attention within Cuba's economic capabilities. Mora added that over 1,000 Haitians are in Cuba fleeing the repression unleashed in their country in the aftermath of the military coup in September.

Mora noted that the United States has no right to build facilities for the Haitians at the Guantanamo Naval Base, as it is illegally occupying an area of Cuban territory. He also called the action inconsistent because Washington is asking other countries to accept the refugees, while it denies them entry into the United States.

Boats With Haitians Continue To Arrive

FL2711163591 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1609 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] A boat with 43 Haitians on board reached the coast of Baracoa on 26 November. This is the sixth boat filled with Haitians to reach this northeastern municipality in Guantanamo Province in less than a week. On 25 November four boats, carrying approximately 200 persons, reached the areas of Rio Jiguani, Bahia de Mata, and Guandao. These Haitians are fleeing poverty, and in particular the increased repression in Haiti since the September military coup during which constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown. The 43 Haitians who reached the coast of Cuba on 26 November are at a camp set up a few weeks ago in Maravi, Baracoa.

On 19 November a sailboat with approximately 200 Haitians on board capsized in Paso de los Vientos off Maisi Point. Only 60 Haitians survived the accident.

U.S. Plans To House Haitians at Guantanamo

FL2711163191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The U.S. Department of Defense is planning to open temporary camps for Haitian refugees at the Guantanamo Naval Base which Washington illegally occupies. ABC television network cited White House sources as saying that sending approximately 3,000 Haitians to this key military base is being considered. ABC also said the Pentagon is building installations to house the refugees, adding that an undetermined number of soldiers were sent to the Guantanamo Base with that purpose.

Temporary housing for the Haitians, fleeing repression in Haiti, stops refugees from entering the state of Florida. In Washington, State Department spokesperson Margaret Tutwiler, acknowledged that the government is very concerned about the Haitian mass exodus.

Aldana Addresses Nonaligned News Agencies Meeting

FL2711133191 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1233 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] This meeting expresses the need to unite efforts and resources to develop, even amid adverse situations, the systems of cooperation created among underdeveloped countries. This statement was made by Carlos Aldana, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, during the opening session of the 15th meeting of the organizing committee of the pool of news agencies in nonaligned countries that will meet through 28 November, at the Habana Libre Hotel in Havana. Aldana stressed the importance of creating a new world order in information and communication which would represent putting an end to the privileges enjoyed by a small group of countries that control 90 percent of the radio spectrum. The Cubans, Aldana said, are living crucial times in our history in which the press and all the communications media play an important role and it is their duty to have a clear direction.

Iraqi News Agency Director Meets Counterparts

JN2711201091 Baghdad INA in English 1445 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Havana, Nov. 27, INA—Director General of Iraqi News Agency (INA) 'Adnan al-Juburi yesterday met with directors general of the Yemeni and Cuban news agencies and heads of the Moroccan, Libyan and Algerian delegations attending the 15th session of the governmental coordination committee of Nonaligned News Agencies' Pool, currently held in Havana.

The meetings focused on Iraq's stance toward the 15-month-old economic blockade imposed on Iraq in addition to the pool's information role in unmasking the conspiracy planned against the people of Iraq and the U.S. attempts to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

Areas of cooperation and coordination between the members and means of exchanging expertise and press information were also discussed during the meeting.

Nonaligned News Agencies Pool Meeting Ends

FL2911125891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Representatives [illegible] over 90 African, Asian, and Latin American countri[illegible] today, in Havana, concluded the 15th meeting of the o[illegible]izing committee of the pool of news agencies of nona[illegible]ned countries. During the three-day meeting, the delegates discussed topics such as, strengthening of a new international order for information and communication, exchange of experiences, and a greater flow of information between the members of the news agencies pool. The delegates analyzed the work done by the presidency of the organization that, since 1969, has had its headquarters in Angola and drafted a new strategy for the fulfillment of the Luanda Plan approved by the fifth general conference. The Havana

meeting also called for the elimination of obstacles that could keep the pool from becoming an efficient means for exchange of information among Third World countries. Other topics approved in the final declaration were the training of reporters and support for those countries that do not have their own news agency.

The pool of news agencies of nonaligned countries was created in August 1976 and currently has some 100 members. During the meeting the delegates agreed that the sixth general conference of the pool will be held in Iran, the country that will assume the presidency of the organization next year.

Commentary Criticizes Western Journalists

PA2911023291 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] A large number of Western journalists and media have the habit of remaining silent about the most important activities in Cuba and exaggerating incidents that are sparked by a small group of counterrevolutionaries. A few accredited correspondents, special envoys, and prominent editors in Western cities write almost every day about the alleged brilliance of those who are in so-called dissident groups and how they are supposedly being harrassed for their opposition to socialism. These types of reports often appear in the pages of well-known newspapers that encourage the feverish anti-Cuban campaign promoted by the U.S. special interests office. It is true that dozens of people, who are oppossed to the Cuban Revolution, lend themselves to this CIA game. However, the leaders of these minuscule groups would remain completely anonymous if the so-called objective media would give them the importance they really have in this society.

The so-called dissidents are basically self-centered people with no sense of class identity. They call themselves the defenders of human rights in Cuba but cannot present evidence of human rights violations when reporters hound them with questions on the topic. Cuban security organizations do have compelling evidence on the collusion of many of these dissidents with U.S. officials, CIA agents, and well-known people who live abroad. For example, the role played by CIA agent Carlos Alberto Montaner was revealed in Havana last June. Montaner, who lives in Madrid disguised as a writer of Cuban origin, has close ties with Cuban citizen Maria Elena Cruz Varela. She is an inexperienced writer, who lives on the island and shows more enthusiasm in joining the foreign maneuvers against her country than in writing. Western newspapers give more attention to this counterrevolutionary, who attempts to gain points in foreign circles that are interested in destroying the revolution, than to the everyday heroes who contribute to the survival of the 10 million inhabitants of this island, which, by the way, also includes Cruz Varela.

The Cubans know that these groups do not have any influence in the country. They also know that the true political option for this country is far removed from the submissive proposals posed by these adventurers.

Dominican Republic

Paris Club Agrees To Restructure Foreign Debt

FL2611200391 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Sources from the Paris Club, an informal group of Western countries, reported 25 November that an agreement was reached with the Dominican Republic to restructure its foreign debt payments. The agreement, reached on 22 November, provides for a 20-year term for repaying credits for public aid and development, and a 15-year term for other loans.

According to figures from the Dominican Central Bank, the Dominican Republic's debt to the Paris Club totals $1.8 billion. In a communique issued in Paris, France, the Paris Club recommended that the governments of its member countries proceed with a significant renegotiation of the Dominican foreign debt, which is the result of loans and credits guaranteed and granted by the countries that participated in the meeting.

The communique stressed the valiant efforts made by the government, headed by Joaquin Balaguer, to straighten out th situation, particularly the government's implementation of an economic and financial program approved by the IMF on 28 August.

Government representatives from Spain, France, Germany, the United States, and Japan participated in the meeting. Observers from Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Finland, and Canada also attended the meeting.

Haiti

Honorat Announces Presidential Elections

FL2811194291 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 28 Nov 91

["Report" on interview with Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat by Pierre Rigaud Charles in Port-au-Prince on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat has said that he is very optimistic following the third round of negotiations that were held in Cartagena under the auspices of the OAS. The prime minister has thanked the Haitian people for the courage displayed despite the effects of the two-month old embargo. Attorney Honorat has rejected the idea that the Cartagena meeting was a failure.

Let us hear what the prime minister said during an interview with Pierre Rigaud Charles.

[Begin recording] [Charles] During the interview with Haitian Prime Minister Jean-Jacques Honorat, he commented on several issues, such as the results of the negotiations with the OAS, the embargo that the OAS imposed and which is causing so many problems for the people, his government's role in the negotiations, his plan to establish, as soon as possible, a permanent electoral council and to hold elections for a new president, and the current crisis in the country. Honorat is very pleased with the parliamentary delegation that went to Cartagena and believes that it was unfair of the former president to stop the the negotiations with his arrogant attitude and one-sided view of things without taking other parties into consideration. Honorat believes that the OAS went too far in the negotiations and that it reacted too hastily. Consequently, it made a number of mistakes; it was arbitrary, illegal, committed social injustice, and so forth. According to Honorat, the embargo has no reason for being and is in violation of international law.

[Honorat] Greetings to all Radio Nationale listeners. Thank you for this opportunity you have offered me to talk to the Haitian people. You speak of failure of the Cartagena negotiations. This depends on what was expected from those negotiations. I do not consider them a failure for the Haitian side, the nation, the real country because....[changes thought] This is something I said before the negotiations. Even before the Cartagena round [preceding word in English] of talks, I answered a question for a foreign journalist and said that I expected nothing from it because I know Jean-Bertrand Aristide. I knew he would not make any concessions. He is of an autocratic and arrogant nature. He is not a person who would make concessions.

[Charles] Honorat went on to say that the government he heads has only played the role of catalyst in the negotiations. He described the embargo as economic violence. What is important for the government now is to handle the national crisis, prevent a civil war or foreign occupation in the country while abiding by the Constitution.

[Honorat] We saw the parliamentarians make so many concessions. They went as far as agreeing to disavow what they did on 8 October [day Judge Joseph Nerette was appointed provisional president]. Thus, I believe they overstepped their authority established in the Constitution. Despite this, the other party did not make any concession.

I do not call that a failure. I call that a chance mishap in the process of negotiation. We are now waiting to see what the OAS will do because it is....[changes thought] Do not forget that it is the OAS that is supposed to be leading the negotiations as an authority that had hastily taken a wrong decision and that is embarrassed now by that decision. We are waiting to see what the OAS will say, what it will do.

[Charles] According to reliable sources, we know that the OAS is supposed to meet in camera. As prime minister, are you optimistic about the results of this meeting in camera?

[Honorat] Certainly, I am always optimistic. I believe in fundamental human nature. I suppose the OAS has noted—through the process of negotiations—that it went too far too early when it framed its resolution, and that it made a mistake. Well, making mistakes is human. The Latin saying, to err is human, continues by saying: To persevere in error is diabolic. Continuing in error is diabolic. I therefore do not believe that the OAS will completely lose its good sense by persevering in its mistake.

[Charles] But, Mr. Honorat, for the sake of clarity, what exactly do you mean when you use the word, mistake?

[Honorat] The resolution of the OAS was illegal, unjustified, arbitrary, and racist. It was a mistake. For those four reasons, the OAS resolution was a mistake. I assume they have understood it to be a mistake when they later came to see things for themselves. They arrived to hear the entire Haitian reality, all aspects of Haiti's true colors. I assume that after they experienced this, they will do something. I therefore optimistically await this adjustment.

[Charles] The formation of the Permanent Electoral Council is planned for 5 December. It will manage to hold presidential elections within one month. The electoral process will end on 5 January 1992 in accordance with the Constitution.

[Honorat] Meanwhile, what will we do? We will comply with the Constitution. Do not forget that as legalists, we have decided to always comply with constitutional legality. So, what will we do in the meantime? As cool-headed persons with our heads on straight, we will begin the process that will lead us to elections within 90 days as required by the Constitution. That is why we submitted a bill to parliament—to the Senate—10 days ago for the communal assemblies because according to the Constitution it is up to the communal assemblies to designate the municipal assembly members. The latter will designate the departmental assembly members, who will then choose 27 persons—at the rate of three per geographic department—who will constitute a pool [preceding in English] from which the executive power, the Court of Cassation, and the parliament will each choose three members.

Thus will the nine persons be found who will constitute the electoral council. This is a long process. We began it 10 days ago. We sent the text of the bill to parliament, to the Senate. We are waiting for the Senate to vote it quickly so we can convoke the Chamber of Deputies to vote it in their turn, because the Permanent Electoral Council must be formed by 5 December so it can have enough time to set elections for Sunday 5 January, thus fulfilling our constitutional mandate. Do not forget that it was on 8 October that Parliament designated Judge

Nerette as provisional president. The deadline for Judge Nerette to hold elections is 8 January. The deadline for this government to hold elections is 8 January. Elections must therefore be held on Sunday, 8 January.

Conacom Says Cartagena Talks 'Positive Step'

FL2711194491 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Press release issued by the National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] in Port-au-Prince; date not given]

[Text] Conacom has described the Cartagena negotiations as a positive step toward the solution of the crisis that the country is experiencing. Conacom states that it hopes the negotiations will continue. In the communique, Conacom Secretary General Professor Victor Benoit has said that the parties involved have cleared the political ground. He also said that they have assessed the current situation of the country within a climate of tranquillity and mutual respect. Professor Benoit believes any other solution that would exclude negotiations, would be a temporary solution. Such a solution would only guarantee a false political stability. It would not create a climate of trust that could allow important investments to be made and boost the country's economy. Professor Benoit adds that there is neither a loser nor a winner in real political negotiations and that the sole great beneficiary is the country. The Conacom secretary general suggests that both parties resume the negotiations and hopes they will calm down and find a solution to the current crisis in the country.

Deputy Criticizes Cartagena Delegation

FL2711203891 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpts] In a statement to Radio Galaxie, Mirebalais Deputy Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis said the delegation that went to Cartagena to negotiate did not really have the good faith necessary for reaching a solution to the current crisis in the country because according to him, most of the parliamentarians who comprised the delegation were enemies of the deposed administration. Deputy Jean-Louis went on to say that although National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] deputies made recommendations to Chamber of Deputies President Duly Brutus so the choice of delegates could be a fair one, Brutus ignored them.

[Begin Jean-Louis recording] [passage omitted] I do not see why the delegation that went to Cartagena prepared such a resolution. They mentioned 'continuation of the constitutional order.' What does that mean? It is vague and imprecise. Continuation infers that anybody can lead the country under the constitutional continuation, does it not? That is what they mean. It was a trap. Had Aristide been a fool, he would have fallen into the trap. I therefore believe our parliamentary delegation, which pretends it wants to negotiate a solution to the crisis shaking the country, does not really have an interest in getting the country out of its current situation. It is they who have taken the country as hostage, not President Aristide through the FNCD. That is my position. I ask them to think, to see what state the country is in, and to look for a solution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Brutus Defends Composition

FL2711220391 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Nov 91

["Excerpt" of interview with Duly Brutus, Chamber of Deputies president, by Jean-Robert Philippe; place not given, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] [Philippe] According to Mirebalais Deputy Joseph Fignole Jean-Louis, you are responsible for the failure of the Cartagena negotiations because you did not attempt to balance the delegation that was sent.

[Brutus] I personally find that to be a gratuitous attack. We are living through a situation that I think requires us to be calm. We must avoid accusing one another without considering the national problem, without considering that the context is extremely difficult. In response to his charge that I was responsible for the failure of the negotiations, I must point out that in the Chamber of Deputies, my vote is 50 percent plus one, no more. [as heard] Furthermore, I have no more authority than the Mirebalais deputy. If he had been here, he would have fulfilled his responsibility to choose who should participate in the delegation. There was a meeting that was attended by 42 deputies [corrects himself], sorry 46 deputies. Proposals for the composition of the delegation came from those 46 deputies. I cannot veto what the 46 deputies decided. I am sorry that Deputy Jean-Louis was not present to air his opinion.

[Philippe] But he said he had contacted you on that issue.

[Brutus] I repeat: I do not have the power to veto what 46 deputies—who represent much more than the half plus one—decided. He consulted me. But if I had changed the composition of the delegation according to his recommendations, that would have been a dictatorial deed not fitting for someone who believes in democracy and respects the principles that govern the functioning of the Chamber of Deputies. Thank you. [end recording]

Station Reports on Refugee Camps in Cuba

FL2711132391 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The United States Government has set up special camps for Haitian refugees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater says he hopes the arrangement will be only temporary and that it will not encourage more Haitians to flee their country. The U.S. continues to advise against that. Some 3,100 refugees are being held on U.S. Coast Guard ships after being picked up at sea in recent weeks.

The Inter-American Human Rights Commission reports that 1,500 people may have been killed in Haiti since late September. The OAS group says it wants to go to Haiti to investigate complaints of repression, arbitrary arrests, and torture by the de facto government. There are also allegations of harassment of the Haitian news media, including death threats and the killing of reporters. Further, two burial pits were discovered earlier this month in which 60 bodies of men, women, and children were found.

Liberian Registered Fuel Tanker Violates Embargo

FL2911122591 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Excerpt] A fuel tanker docked in Haiti with 110,000 barrels of gasoline and diesel fuel overriding an international economic embargo. Trade sanctions have been placed on Haiti since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was thrown out two months ago. An unnamed spokesman for the National Association of Petroleum Distributors did not say where the tanker came from or how the fuel was bought. It is known that the ship arrived from Aruba but its point of origin before that is not known.

The tanker flew a Liberian flag and the U.S. Coast Guard claims it had boarded a Liberian tanker on Wednesday finding 4,600 gallons of gasoline on board. But a commander said he did not stop the tanker because he said they were not authorized to enforce embargoes, only look for Haitian refugees. [passage omitted]

Costa Rica

Government Grants Asylum to Cuban Deserters

PA2811140291 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0144 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] San Jose, 27 Nov (DPA)—It was reported on 27 November that Costa Rica granted asylum to three Cuban deserters who fled their home country a few days ago. Two of them are alleged members of the state security agency.

The deserters are brothers Juan Carlos Pena, 38; and Manuel de Jesus Pena, 39; as well as Rene Pena Bazar, 25; all of whom were born in Pinar del Rio Province.

The three men escaped from Cuba in a fiberglass boat and were picked up in open seas by a Cyprus flag ship when they were about to shipwreck.

The ship's captain took them to the port of Limon, on Costa Rica's Atlantic side, on 21 November.

Two weeks ago, the Costa Rican Government granted asylum to three Cuban artists who deserted after performing in Costa Rica with the Cuban ballet and the Havana Spanish dance troupe.

Calderon Expects Relief of Debt in 1992

PA2611223091 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier expressed the hope that the United States will forgive Costa Rica's debt in mid-1992. It is expected that a good portion will be excused by the middle of next year, at the latest, when Costa Rica becomes eligible for the Initiative for the Americas.

Calderon stated that efforts are being made to conclude negotiations by the first half of next year. He added, however, that what is important is that the negotiations take place, not when they will conclude.

He said it is important to obtain benefits because the government is working toward that goal. In addition, it is fulfilling obligations contracted with international organizations.

Calderon stated that international organizations and the U.S. Government have recognized the effort of the Costa Rican people to obtain benefits through a substantial reduction in the fiscal deficit.

In view of this national effort, he noted, international organizations have been sympathetic and this is why he hopes negotiations will continue in a positive sense within the framework of the Initiative of the Americas, as well as with the remaining financial institutions.

Calderon concluded by saying that Costa Rica is one of the few countries to succeed in reaching specific economic goals and the benefits of this will be visible for many years to come for the welfare of Costa Ricans.

El Salvador

Crusade Says Cristiani Betrayed People, Homeland

PA2711134991 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 25 Nov 91 p 17

[Paid advertisement by the Crusade for Peace and Work]

[Text] SALVADORANS, BE ALERT

WISE UP TO THE GOVERNMENT - FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] DECEIT!!!

ON YOUR FEET!!! YOU CAN STILL SAVE YOUR HOMELAND!!!

In 1979, when all the Salvadoran people faced an uncertain situation given the violent actions perpetrated by murderous hordes, there arose a man bearing a banner: Nationalism...and the miracle occurred! A whole nation raised its head and rose courageously, carrying a cross in one hand and true love for the homeland in the other; and we decided to save our homeland, even if it cost us our lives. Many have died since then.

They were undoubtedly the only ones who possessed a true and authentic nationalism. The others are there, enjoying political posts; and the majority, frustrated like all the Salvadoran people, and those who have no homeland—the same ones, as usual—have lost everything along the way, even their dignity. The result is that, 11 years later, the homeland is about to be betrayed!!! The most paradoxical, sad, and pathetic thing is that the homeland is not being betrayed by those we expected. It will be betrayed by the false right-wing groups that raised a banner that did not represent their true intentions and ideology; and the government, led by Dr. Alfredo Cristiani, will go down in history—not as the one that achieved peace and true democracy, but as the one that betrayed our destiny to none other than the executioners and assassins who killed, kidnapped, burned, looted, and destroyed the Salvadoran people for over a decade.

We now ask: What happened to all the nationalism and love for the homeland that roused the masses and drove so many people to the highest expressions of patriotism? When did we lose the nationalism that compelled the people to prove with their ballots their keen desire to achieve freedom? We ask those who get angry when someone raises his voice to report what the whole world knows but which very few dare to say: Why—in the name of that much abused freedom of expression, which seems to favor only the FMLN and its facade groups—do you permit and tolerate the insulting and rude threats of all the groups that support the FMLN; yet, whenever someone dares to disagree with the ideology of terror and

violence and with your cowardly negotiations, televised newscasts abound with threats against them? Is it a crime to call things as you see them? In any civilization, whoever kills someone else can only be called an assassin; AND WHOEVER BETRAYS OR SELLS OUT HIS HOMELAND CAN ONLY BE CALLED A TRAITOR. However, if anyone does not endorse treason and deceit in this "new democracy," he is called an extremist or he is out of context in the "new order."

GIVEN THE SECRET NEGOTIATIONS, WE ASK: HOW WILL THE LAWS BE ENFORCED WHEN THE "NEW GOVERNMENT-FMLN CONSORTIUM" WIELDS TOTAL POWER IF NOW, WHEN THE FIENDS GLOAT ABOUT THE VICTORY THAT THEY READILY PERCEIVE, EVEN THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IS BEING QUESTIONED AND THE HEADS OF GENERALS AND COLONELS ARE ABOUT TO ROLL? WHAT WILL BE THE FATE OF MAJORS, CAPTAINS, LIEUTENANTS, NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND SOLDIERS WHEN THE NEW "GOVERNMENT-FMLN CONSORTIUM" DECIDES TO ELIMINATE ALL VESTIGES OF THE MILITARY? DO MANY OF THOSE WHO NOW COMFORTABLY ADAPT THEMSELVES TO THE FMLN'S "NEW PEACE AND DEMOCRACY" BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL GUARANTEE THEIR POSSESSIONS AND PRIVILEGES? Do businessmen believe that those who comprise the "new FMLN consortium" will be benevolent in their socioeconomic demands simply because the businessmen relinquished the homeland's sovereignty?

WE KNOW WE ARE IN DANGER, GIVEN THE UNCERTAIN SITUATION THAT CURRENTLY PREVAILS IN THE LEGAL SECTOR, AND WE HAVE NO GUARANTEES BECAUSE WE DID NOT SELL OUT TO THE "NEW DEMOCRACY"—WHICH RENDERS DEFENSELESS ALL THOSE OF US WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO RAISE OUR VOICES AND STATE OUR PATRIOTIC FEELINGS. THEREFORE, WE HEREBY STATE THAT WE HOLD THE "NEW GOVERNMENT-FMLN CONSORTIUM" RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ATTACK ON OUR POSSESSIONS AND LIVES; JUST AS WE HOLD RESPONSIBLE THE UN OBSERVERS FOR EL SALVADOR, WHOSE OBLIGATION IS TO GUARANTEE RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIVES AND MORAL INTEGRITY.

The Crusade for Peace and Work raises its voice even more at a time when the betrayal is imminent. We must follow the example set by the heroes who shed their blood for the homeland, because their martyrdom has not been in vain. We, the true Salvadorans, shall remain firm in our principles and we will continue to struggle for our beloved homeland with pride and courage.

[signed] CRUSADE FOR PEACE AND WORK

Cristiani Assesses Betrayal Charge

PA2711135491 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Report by Mauricio Ramirez]

[Excerpt] On 26 November, President Alfredo Cristiani minimized the charges hurled at him a few hours ago by so-called Crusade for Peace and Work. The organization accused him of betraying the homeland and being a rightist. Cristiani said there will always be detractors but that these accusations would not at all affect the peace process or the talks his government and the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front are holding under UN sponsorship. He also said 15 December continues to be a tentative date for signing a definitive cease-fire.

[Begin Cristiani recording] I think these accusations are rooted in the lack of knowledge of the country's need and of what is happening. These charges, however, must be regarded in light of the freedom of expression that exists in the country. We are not a gold coin, as the saying goes. We will always have detractors, but they have every right to express their views in a country like ours, where freedom and democracy prevail. These charges will not affect the peace process at all. [passage omitted]

Rebel View of Crusades 'Political Blindness'

PA2911003291 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Station commentary: "Bells of Desperation Toli in Military Headquarters"]

[Text] On 26 November, the economic and military ultra-right wing carried out two ugly operations. It is in a state of desperation in the face of the optimism created by the last meeting of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] and the results of what may be the last round of peace talks. These are the bells of desperation that are tolling at the military headquarters and in the grand mansions.

The kidnapping attempt against a bodyguard of the Legislative Assembly's vice president and the statements accusing President Alfredo Cristiani of being a traitor demonstrate the political blindness of the Crusade for Peace and Work. This political blindness means the death penalty for the Crusade.

Both events occurred at the same time that Copaz successfully concluded its meeting with the approval of its draft bill and at the same time that the government and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] delegations began a new round of talks. The objective of this round is to end the war, once and for all.

The actions against the Legislative Assembly vice president and the chief of state seek to undermine the institutional nature of the negotiations and the executive and legislative branches, which are seriously promoting this political solution. These groups feel that true peace

and democracy will strangle them. Their actions are directed at negatively affecting the negotiations in order to give the war some breathing space.

We hope the Legislative Assembly unanimously condemns the attack against its vice president. We trust that those sectors within the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] and the military, and those who support President Cristiani's efforts to attain peace, speak out strongly to persuade their minorities. It is these minorities whose political and paramilitary activities have always attempted against reconciliation and national interests.

We are sure that the achievement made thus far at the talks would not have been possible if the government did not have the support from the business sectors of Arena and even from officers of the Armed Forces, who are aware of the fact that it is impossible to continue governing from military headquarters. After 10 years we are negotiating with the conviction that it is necessary to bring about major reforms to the economy and institutional power in order to live in El Salvador. This conviction became a reality with the New York Agreement.

The FMLN is determined to reach a cease-fire in the shortest possible time. This will be a victory for the entire civilian society of El Salvador.

Government Communique on Peace Negotiations

PA2911015291 San Salvador Radio Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Government in San Salvador on 27 November—read by announcer]

[Text] To the national and international community:

Since President Alfredo Cristiani was sworn into office, he made a proposal to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to achieve a peaceful solution to the armed conflict, which has weakened our country for over a decade.

For more than two years, the government has had the necessary political commitment to attain peace through civilized dialogue mechanisms. Proof of this determination is the New York Agreement. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with the direct participation of President Cristiani, helped us achieve this agreement so that both sides could attain peace, something which Salvadorans desire.

Within the framework of the agreement, the Salvadoran Government resumed the talks in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, on 25 November with the firm goal to sign before the end of the year the necessary political agreements to lead to a definitive cease-fire and, consequently, to the end of the conflict.

Government representatives have attended this meeting with a constructive and flexible spirit, always seeking to achieve the objectives of the New York Agreement. This agreement clearly defines the topics that remain to be discussed in a final round of negotiations. Among the topics are the creation of a national civilian police force and the issue of the Armed Forces. The Salvadoran Government expects the FMLN to adopt a similar attitude so that once they abandon their well-known radical positions, the FMLN can contribute to an accelerated and significant movement toward peace.

Therefore, the FMLN must listen to the Salvadoran people, who demand that the FMLN stop its destabilizing actions, lay down its weapons, demobilize, and return to civilian life. The FMLN must understand that the Salvadoran people will not allow the FMLN to keep its weapons as the road that can take it to power even with the apparent benefits of a unilateral cease-fire, which the FMLN has not fully observed. That is why the FMLN must observe the unilateral cease-fire they have offered and, more importantly, they must sign a definitive cease-fire agreemment as soon as possible.

The government calls on citizens in general to support the peace process at this crucial time and to prevent the enemies of peace from obstructing it.

The government reiterates to the national and international community its firm political commitment so that in this meeting in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico, the historic date of the signing of a cease-fire agreement can be recorded, thereby bringing an end to the conflict and bringing the much desired peace to the entire Salvadoran people.

[issued] San Salvador, 27 November 1991
[signed] Government of the Republic of El Salvador

New Anticommunist Group Issues Communique

PA2911040591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] A new anticommunist organization emerged in the past few hours with a communique in which it identifies itself as the Civic Coordinating Board for the Defense of Democracy [Coordinadora Civica pro Defensa de la Democracia—CCPD]. The communique states that:

While the propaganda groups of international communism, through their front organizations, claim to promote peace, they are subjecting our country to the loudest defamatory aggression in an attempt to break the determination of institutions that were legally established to defend the state's sovereingty, territorial integrity, constitutional order, and laws. The presence of foreign intervention is apparent in this machination.

Thus, we demand that the supreme government of the Republic, which is the faithful representative of the people's will, to solve, through its organs of justice, the murder of the paladins of our country's democratic thought, namely Edgar Chacon, Francisco Peccorini,

Antonio Rodriguez Porth, and other martyrs who are part of the golden pages of justice and history.

We urge international human rights organizations to investigate extensively all kinds of charges to avoid being surprised by this aggressive game that international communism is playing, in keeping with a regional strategy; and by the psychological pressure that leaders committed to this are applying on the working class.

Peace, justice, work, and democracy.
[Signed] Civic Coordinating Board for the Defense of Democracy, CCPD.

FMLN Leader: Suspension of Bombing 'Not Enough'

PA2811195691 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Miguel Saenz, of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Political Committee, said that the suspension of bombings and use of heavy artillery by the Army is not enough to meet current needs and reach a peace agreement. Saenz said that reciprocal measures must be taken to foster a favorable climate of calm; meaning, the total suspension of all Army operations, thus turning the FMLN and government attitudes into dynamic steps to reach a final cease-fire.

He said that the FMLN expects the government to go one step further, since the clashes that have taken place were due to Army attacks.

Alliance Leader Sees Complex Transition Period

PA2711195791 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Armando Calderon Sol, president of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, admitted that there are still serious stumbling blocks in the negotiation process. He said he foresees a complex transition period ahead, according to a SALPRESS news agency report datelined in Mexico.

The politician, who flew to Mexico as a member of the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace to meet with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, said the government and guerrilla delegations are moderately optimistic and believe the signing of a final agreement to end the armed conflict may take place at the meeting in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato State.

Zamora Reports Kidnap Attempt Against Bodyguard

PA2711013591 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Democratic Convergence Deputy Ruben Zamora has announced that a kidnap attempt has been made against a member of his security force in an incident that resulted in the death of one of the unidentified attackers.

Zamora called for a thorough investigation of the incident, which took place at approximately 0900 on 25 November in San Martin. He did not witness the kidnap attempt, which he believes may have been an effort to hinder peace negotiations.

[Begin Zamora recording] Two heavily armed men, one of them toting a 9-mm pistol and a .38-caliber pistol, attempted to kidnap a member of my security force but encountered resistance. A confrontation ensued, other members of my security force intervened, and one of the would-be kidnappers was killed. The slain assailant was searched to find out his identity and what group he belonged to, but he had no identification whatsoever.

I must inform the public that attacks such as these are aimed at destabilizing the country and hindering the current negotiations. [end recording]

Regarding the Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] meeting in Mexico over the weekend, Zamora said that the process will open doors to a cease-fire.

[Begin Zamora recording] I would like to announce that the Copaz law has been approved by consensus. The law defines Copaz' attributes, internal procedures, regulations, budget, and other things. [end recording]

Zamora also described the negotiations as very positive, even though there are difficult issues that are as yet unresolved.

Guatemala

Serrano To Testify in Trial of Officers

PA2711141691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0336 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 25 Nov (NOTIMEX)—President Jorge Serrano Elias will testify before a military court on the mass murder of 11 civilians, who were gunned down by a military group on 9 August. Serrano's plan to testify was confirmed 25 November by Acisclo Valladares, attorney general and government district attorney.

The president will testify as commander in chief of the Guatemalan Army, because in that capacity he heard a statement from one of the accused, Valladares said.

Anibal Giron Arreola, ship-of-the-line captain, stands accused of killing 11 civilians in Southern Escuintla Department while he served as commander of the Pacific Naval Base.

According to Valladares, the officer—who has been discharged but remains at the Naval Base—met with President Serrano and told him he shot to death the 11 persons, who were criminals and smugglers.

Serrano Elias informed Valladares of what Giron Arreola had confided in him and added that he would testify at the military court "because he did not want to cover up these acts," Valladares stressed.

Capt. Giron Arreola and six other servicemen —Jorge Gonzalez, Herbert Galindo, Luis Alonso Ortega, Capt. Mario Garcia, Tito Martinez, and Corporal Gilberto Camper Morales— reportedly killed the 10 men and one woman.

Last week, the 4th Court of Appeals dismissed the charges on a technicality. Nevertheless, the case will be reopened because of Giron Arreola's confession. The date on which Serrano will testify from his office at the Presidential Palace is not yet known.

URNG Urges Serrano To Create Climate for Talks

PA2711173691 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Nov 91 p 6

[Text] Pablo Monsanto, member of the General Command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), has stated that the guerrillas will continue their operations and not renounce a military victory if the talks with the government and Army fail, according to a dispatch by the news agency CERIGUA datelined in Mexico.

In remarks published yesterday by the Mexican press, Monsanto urged President Jorge Serrano Elias to create a climate favorable to the development of the talks, since one of the problems is that the government side "absolutely refuses to implement immediate measures to protect human rights."

The Guatemalan president noted that the problem stems from the fact that the guerrilla proposals are at odds with existing laws. However, he added that he signed a document last year in which he and all the political parties pledged to amend the Constitution. The government negotiating delegation also signed an agreement to this effect in April.

Gaspar Ilom, another member of the URNG General Command, said that "minority military sectors," who are nonetheless "dangerous," are exerting political pressure to bring the talks to a stalemate.

In this respect, Commander Monsanto said the conditions do not exist in Guatemala for a possible truce between the Army and the guerrillas. He further explained that the URNG has stepped up its attacks in response to an increase in repressive actions by the Army, which "is hardening its stance and pressuring the authorities to be less flexible," at the negotiating table.

Another CERIGUA dispatch stated that the Army is attacking resisting villages [poblaciones en resistencia], specifically in the Ixcan Municipality, Quiche Department, prior to the arrival of a humanitarian mission to the area.

URNG Reports Inflicting 45 Casualties on Army

PA2811202891 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2057 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] stated on 27 November that it inflicted 45 casualties on the Army, counting dead and injured, in two ambushes on military convoys in northwestern Quiche Department.

According to the URNG "war bulletin," the attacks took place in the Chinique and Zacualpa areas of Quiche, one of the country's most strife-torn departments.

The URNG indicated that it inflicted 13 casualties on the Armed Forces in the first ambush on 21 November on three military vehicles. Also that day, it attacked two military convoys, and it was here that the Army sustained the other 32 casualties.

The Information and Press Department of the Army, in turn, indicated that just five soldiers were killed and 15 were injured in the rebel ambushes.

The URNG used Claymore mines and rifle fire to conduct the attack, the "war bulletin" reported. The rebel group warned on 26 November that it will not submit to a military victory if the peace talks fail. The rebels and the government of conservative Jorge Serrano, who took office in January, began the peace talks in April.

Government Agrees to Rights Group Investigation

PA2911035591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1021 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 26 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Presidency Secretary General Manuel Conde today reported that the Guatemalan Government has agreed to allow an international commission to investigate the country's human rights violations. He also said that the government accepts the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity's (URNG) proposal made during the peace talks.

Conde explained that the investigations must be made in accordance with Guatemalan laws, with equanimity, and with a true intent to achieve national reconciliation.

Conde Orellana, who also presides over the government peace talks with the guerrillas, gave assurances that the administration "has nothing against human rights violations being investigated."

The negotiation process that began in Norway in 1989 today passes a tough test when the sides discuss human rights violations. The government's acceptance of an international commission to investigate violations of these universal principles is a step toward untangling the dialogue process.

Still pending, however, is the point that deals with self-defense civil patrols (PAC), which are paramilitary organizations led by the Army to fight guerrillas. They have been blamed for numerous crimes against humanity. While the URNG demands that the PAC be dissolved, Conde Orellana ruled out this possibility, arguing that "it is absurd to even think of it, because these organizations are there due to the guerrillas' existence." The time will come, he said, when the peace process negotiators will discuss "the dismantling of the guerrilla army. This is when we will discuss demobilizing the patrols."

Although the talks are bogged down on this controversial topic, the official said he was confident that a new round of talks will be held before the end of the year.

Conde called on the URNG to "act with prudence because now is not the time for opening wounds that only cause more confrontations."

He said that the latest guerrilla activities are "purely terrorist" because they were carried out in urban areas. This endangers civilians and makes the URNG "lose its insurgent status."

Minister Denounces Operations by Medellin Cartel

PA2711210591 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Nov 91 p 22

[Text] On 25 November, Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem acknowledged that Guatemala is becoming the Medellin Cartel's cocaine warehouse, as stated by news dispatches originating in the United States.

Various news agencies recently published reports on the increase in drug trafficking in Central America and Mexico, emphasizing that Guatemala is the fourth country that the Medellin Cartel most often uses to store cocaine for subsequent shipment to the United States.

Hurtado Prem noted that, in effect, Guatemala is a center of operations for drug traffickers who try to take advantage of the country's geographic location to easily ship drugs to several parts of the world.

He nevertheless emphasized that within the past few months security forces have dismantled many organizations linked to international drug trafficking, and added that some of their leaders have been arrested and have been turned over to the courts.

Hurtado Prem stated that it is sad to admit, but drug traffickers are trying to increase their operations in Guatemala because of its proximity to Mexico and the United States. However, he stressed that the security forces will continue their struggle to counter the Medellin Cartel's operations to try to stop them from destroying the youth of the world.

Honduras

Reportage on ENEE Attack, Government Response

Morazanist Front Claims Responsibility

PA2711145891 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Nov 91 p 53

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The purported leftist group Morazanist Patriotic Front [FPM] on 22 November claimed responsibility for the attack on Arturo Guillen, chief of personnel of the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE], and threatened to carry out similar actions "against officials, businessmen, newsmen, military men, and servile people who earn dirty wages from the Honduran Armed Forces, the U.S. Embassy, and the Government." Here is the full text of the communique sent to the Tegucigalpa news media on 22 November, a few hours after the attack was perpetrated at the Cerro Grande neighborhood:

The FPM informs the people of Honduras that on 22 November its Gustavo Morales Urban Cell carried out an operation to warn the ENEE personnel chief.

This action conveys our strong protest over the current regime's policy against Honduras and constitutes a warning to other ENEE executives who shamelessly and without dignity support the dastardly plans to destroy the organized mass movement in the country.

The action is also a sign of solidarity with the moribund Honduran people, and especially with organizations such as El Mochito union, the Trade Union of Tela Railroad Company Workers, National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union, murdered peasants, street peddlers, maids, and in general with 4 million needy Hondurans whom the government is murdering with its gringo adjustment.

The Honduran people and the organized mass movement explain that the union call to strike in defense of its interests will never be an act of agitation or a social aberration, as the so-called opinion makers hired by the government want the people to believe, since these opinion makers, instead of voicing serious and unbiased views, seem to be spokesmen for country's organized death squads. The strike called by the National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union or any other union in the world will always constitute a legitimate, natural, and normal means for it to defend the interests of its organization and to oppose those who call on it to yield without the least resistance, so that some always enjoy the wealth of the country while everybody else starves to death.

The unions' struggle constitutes the peoples' struggle and any pressure tactic is correct. Those hackneyed arguments, that the people pay the consequences or that we must place the interest of the nation above the interests of a group, are not only crass and lacking in seriousness but downplay the intelligence of the people, who are

being used. We know that if management truly cared it would have created some means of social, just, and humane coexistence for all and would not provoke its workers by failing to adhere to signed pacts and current laws.

Our struggle is for and with the people, our enemies are the people's enemies, our goal is justice and social well-being for the four million poor people in Honduras and, because our struggle is just, God is with us.

Our message must be heard; no one is immune to divine justice, which is but the people's justice. We are keeping an eye on politicians, military men, journalists, businessmen, bureaucrats, and all undignified Hondurans who receive dirty wages from the government, military, and U.S. Embassy; we know who they are and how to find them. The people's weapons are ready and vigilant, and we reserve the right to use them against anyone at any moment we may consider deserving.

Federico Breve Travieso and Mauro Membreno have the floor. No action against the people will go unpunished. With God and with the people we will be triumphant; our struggle is just because it is the people's struggle.

[Signed] National Directorate of the Morazanist Patriotic Front.

President Callejas Condemns Attack

PA2711150391 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 25 Nov 91 p 5

[Report by Armando Villanueva]

[Excerpt] After the chief of personnel of the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE] was attacked on 22 November, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas announced on 24 November that police will protect ENEE officials and soldiers will guard its facilities.

This weekend, the Gustavo Morales commando cell of the Morazanist Patriotic Front claimed responsibility for the attack on Arturo Guillen Espinal. As a result, the government will protect the corporation's officials.

Callejas said the attack was "entirely unjustified" and that such actions are perpetrated by "irresponsible" groups who act senselessly in the new society.

The president said his government has given a clear indication of its political willingness to provide ideological openness, pluralism and respect for human rights. Society will not be transformed by these types of actions.

"I flatly condemn all attacks against public officials, who are only trying to improve relations between the government and society," he said.

Callejas said investigative agencies have already started to take "appropriate actions" against those responsible for the attack on the ENEE official.

The government has been talking with the labor federations on Labor Code amendments to improve labor-management relations, he said. Actions such as the attack on Guillen, however, "have nothing to do with labor-management relations. These individuals are just a bunch of criminals trying to vent their frustration."

Asked about the security measures to protect the ENEE facilities and officials, Callejas said the officials will be protected by members of the Public Security Force. The buildings will be guarded by soldiers.

The president commented: "These are irresponsible minorities who do not yet understand the changes taking place in the world. These individuals are still living in pre-1917 ideological anarchy."

He said these groups have no right to take anyone's life because life is God's gift and only He can dispose of it.

Callejas said that "all juridical steps are being taken to ensure respect for the government's administration in autonomous enterprises, specifically ENEE."

On 22 November, the Gustavo Morales commando cell of the Morazanist Patriotic Front claimed responsibility for the attack that very nearly cost ENEE's chief of personnel his life. [passage omitted]

Workers Strike Declared Illegal

PA2811032291 Tegucigalpa Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0052 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Resolution issued by the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry in Comayaguela, Honduras on 27 November]

[Text] Labor and Social Welfare Ministry Resolution

Comayaguela, Francisco Morazan Department, 27 November 1991

Ruling to settle the request to declare illegal a suspension of activities, submitted by Doctor Moises Lopez Alvarenga on 7 November 1991, as legal attorney of the National Enterprise for Electric Power [ENEE], against the National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union [STENEE].

Background:

1. A document issued by the Labor and Social Welfare Secretariat on 8 November 1991—requesting that the general suspension of activities sponsored by the STENEE be declared illegal—has been added to the case file. The request was submitted by Doctor Moises Lopez Alvarenga on behalf of the ENEE.

2. The case file includes the following documents: minutes; reports; depositions gathered by labor inspectors in Tegucigalpa to confirm the progressive suspension of activities decreed by the STENEE members at the national level; and written evidence that clearly proves the grave mistake made by STENEE members on 6 November 1991.

Whereas, the documents which accompany the ENEE's request to declare illegal the suspension of activities clearly prove that the STENEE did not exhaust the procedures established by the labor code before declaring a strike. The labor union's reasons for the suspension of activities does not fall within the guidelines established by the labor code as the conditions that must always precede every suspension of activities.

Whereas, it is true that the national constituton protects the right to declare a strike and stoppage; but it is no less true that the same constitution states that a strike will deserve the state's protection—through the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry—provided that it is declared fully in accordance with the labor code provisions, because no one can disavow the fact that labor laws strive to achieve harmony between the labor and management groups and they apply to everyone.

Whereas, the supply of electricity is an essential and strategic service for the state. Therefore, the supply cannot be suspended to jeopardize the citizens' private interests since the suspension of the service would result in a loss of assets that are essential for the state's interests.

Whereas, the case file has evidence to prove that the workers withdrew work material without their employers' authorization for purposes that do not correspond to their normal use. The workers, as well as the labor union, are therefore forbidden to do this.

Whereas, the case file has evidence to prove that the enterprise's vehicles were used in the demonstration carried out by the workers in Comayaguela and Tegucigalpa without the enterprise's authorization, provoking the suspension of the service and causing heavy damage to the users' security and economy.

Whereas, STENEE has attended the hearings and stated the views it considered convenient for its defense.

Whereas, the request submitted with the corresponding documents has been carefully analyzed. The ENEE has proved that the STENEE suddenly decreed a suspension of activities without first meeting the provisions stated by the law, and this has been fully ascertained by this ministry.

Therefore, this ministry, exercising the authority bestowed on it by the law—and in compliance with Articles 1, 70, paragraph 1 of the National Constitution's Introduction, 80, 90, 94, 128, paragraph 1 of the National Constitution's Introduction; Articles 1, 7, 33, 36, numeral 8, and 122 of the general public administration law; Articles 1, 3, 15, 16, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 39, 43, 45, 56, 57, 60, paragraph B, 61, 62, 68, 83, 84, Paragraph B, and 87 of the administrative procedures law; and Articles 1, 3, 13, 98, numerals 4 and 7, 594, paragraphs 1 and 2, 555 in relation to 569, paragraphs 1, 2, 6; Articles 558, 559, 570, 571, 617, paragraph G of the Labor Code—resolves to accept the request submitted to this ministry by Doctor Moises Lopez Alvarenga, legal attorney of the ENEE, to declare illegal the suspension carried out by the STENEE on 6 November 1991.

Consequently, the aforementioned suspension of activities is hereby declared illegal; the request for annulment submitted by the STENEE's legal attorney is hereby rejected. The ENEE is hereby authorized to implement—in order to guarantee the public service it provides—the provisions included in Article 561 of the amended Labor Code. Once the resolution is signed, the secretariat will proceed to issue the corresponding documents and will proceed to file and protect the case file.

Be it promulgated.

(signed) Rodolfo Rosales Abella, labor and social welfare minister

(signed) Felix Martinez, chief clerk

Workers Urged To Disregard Strike

PA2811032591 Tegucigalpa Radio and Television Network in Spanish 0103 GMT 28 Nov 91

["Bulletin" issued by the National Enterprise for Electric Power, ENEE, in Tegucigalpa on 27 November]

[Text] The National Enterprise for Electric Power, ENEE, informs the general public that the irresponsible actions ordered by a few labor leaders have led the government—after exhausting every procedure and legal measure—to adopt actions to prevent the paralysis of work centers by members of the STENEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union], especially at the El Cajon hydroelectric plant facilities.

The company's administration has maintained a policy of dialogue to help serve the public efficiently and get rid of the problems inherent in the power system, but the STENEE's board of directors has rejected that policy. With a clearly defiant and anarchist attitude, some union leaders have placed their personal and group interests before important national and union interests, thus endagering the firm's facilities and hindering the efforts it has made to urgently repair vital equipment and machinery that is used to send supplies to the entire nation.

In an illegal manner, the individuals who have caused these problems are attempting to show the people that the ENEE's administration has created the prevailing situation. They are concealing the truth because their stubborn attitudes have done harm to a service that belongs to all Hondurans.

The ENEE is not opposed to its workers' achievements. It has maintained an open policy so that harmony can prevail as the foundation of its mission, which is to serve the people. The company's administration is calling on all workers who do not support the stubborn positions held by some of their leaders to remain on the job; the

company pledges to guarantee their labor stability, personal safety, and the accomplishments of their labor union struggles.

The Honduran people should be aware that the company and the central government are reacting to anarchy in a firm and decisive manner because they are safeguarding Honduras'interests.

[issued] Tegucigalpa, Municipality of the Central District

27 November 1991

National Enterprise for Electric Power

Union Notes Army Occupation

PA2711202791 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1931 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Union sources reported on 26 November that the Army has taken over the installations of the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE), as the conflict between management and workers worsened.

Groups of soldiers are in all of the ENEE buildings nationwide, including the main hydroelectric plant in El Cajon, which supplies electricity to other Central American countries.

Soldiers are not allowing unionized workers to enter the El Cajon plant for "reasons of national security."

Gladys Lanza president of the National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union, said today that "the workers are not going to work as long as the military occupation and the acts of intimidation and repression continue."

Mauro Membreno, communications, public works, and transportation minister and chairman of the ENEE board of directors, said that the soldiers' presence will continue in all work centers "to guarantee energy service to the country."

The lack of adequate service to giant turbines in El Cajon, which is one of the five biggest dams in Latin America, raises fears that a technical malfunction may cause a prolonged energy shortfall.

The current labor conflict arose when workers protested the hiring of technicians for El Cajon that ignored the mechanisms established by the collective agreement on working conditions.

Lanza felt that "the government's true interest is to create a conflict that will enable it to destroy the union," and added that "there are plans to fire approximately 1,500 employees because of the pressure from international credit organizations."

ENEE is the state agency with the highest debt, totalling approximately $700 million, which is why world organizations such as the World Bank have imposed on it a number of measures to improve its finances. These measures include an increase in rates to the public and a reduction in its internal expenditures.

Army Ordered To Protect Plant

PA2811032491 Tegucigalpa Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 91

["Bulletin" issued by the Presidential Press Secretariat in Tegucigalpa on 27 November]

[Text] The Honduran Government announces to the people that on 27 November, after exhausting legal procedures, the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry declared illegal the suspension of work ordered by the National Enterprise for Electric Power Workers Union [STENEE] and the seizure of installations at the El Cajon hydroelectric plant.

The constitutional president of Honduras, as commander of the Armed Forces, has issued specific instructions to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces so that, in accordance with the law and after the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry resolution is issued, he will issue the necessary orders to guarantee free access to workers who wish to return to their jobs at the ENEE [National Enterprise for Electric Power] installations, to permit the public to conduct normal transactions at the ENEE, and to protect a public service that belongs to the Honduran people and has been threatened by the irresponsible actions of some STENEE leaders.

[Signed] Honduran Presidential Press Secretariat
[Issued] Tegucigalpa, 27 November 1991

Nicaragua

OAS Representative on Recompas-Recontra Meeting

PA2711173591 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] Recontra and recompas leaders have met at the former military base in Tomatoya, Jinotega Department. Dr. Santiago Murray, coordinator of the OAS CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification], referred to the agreements reached by the two groups.

[Begin recording] [Murray] They reviewed the issue' true dimension. There was a problem and the two parties... [pauses] the government requested CIAV mediation, the recontras in time also requested CIAV mediation, and the recompas recently requested CIAV mediation. We have worked for some time to try to bring the two parties together. Fortunately, I think our small cooperation has averted a conflict. We have managed to prevent a conflict that would have had serious consequences as far as peace in Nicaragua is concerned. We still have more

ground to cover. The agreements reached must be improved, perfected. The groups still have to meet, jointly or separately, with the government.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr. Murray, what were the most important agreements?

[Murray] The most important issues we are working on now are the delimitation of enclaves, so the two parties know where each is located, to prevent possible clashes. This will allow the Nicaraguan Government security forces to operate and prevent persons or groups from using these nonaggression agreements to violate the law.

[Reporter] Dr. Murray, could this be dangerous, meaning that we might be creating veritable fiefdoms?

[Murray] Yes, of course. However, these solutions are being specifically sought to prevent clashes, loss of lives. This is not an advisable solution, not a perfect solution; but let us hope that this is a provisional solution until an organized dialogue is held with government authorities.

[Reporter] Dr. Murray, do you think that, since the conflict has been prevented... [pauses] could they think that now they can do without CIAV cooperation because considerable progress has been made in the negotiation?

[Murray] No. I believe the situation calls for a second or third meeting. Our role is certainly unimportant because this is a Nicaraguan issue. It is time the parties, meaning Nicaraguans, start a direct and permanent dialogue without the participation of third country representatives. [end recording]

Recontras, Recompas Give Ultimatum to Government

PA2711170691 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The recontras and the recompas have given an ultimatum to the government. Either the government complies and they disarm in January, or they will use force to make the government suffer. They are also demanding a top-level dialogue, because they say [Government Minister Carlos] Hurtado is not complying with promises.

It is expected that 50 percent of the recompas and the recontras—about 500 men—will disarm in January, as long as the government complies with the economic, social, and security guarantees they are demanding. This possibility is the result of a dialogue that the recompas and recontras held on 25 November.

El Tigrillo [Encarnacion Valdivia], Dimas [Francisco Baldivia], Bolivar [Jaime Zeledon], and Bigote de Oro [Alcides Rodriguez] of the recontra General Command; and Moises, Jesus, Bronson, and Matagalpa of the recompas sat down to discuss this issue at Tomatoya, Jinotega and decided to negotiate jointly with the government, threatening to use force if their stability in rural areas is not guaranteed. Let us listen to recompa leader Matagalpa.

[Begin recording] [Matagalpa] We have united to demand that the government comply with our requests. We will see to it that the government comply with our demands, either through the use of force or any other means.

[Reporter] What are your petitions?

[Matagalpa] We are demanding commitments that have not been fulfilled with the demobilized fighters of the resistance or the discharged soldiers of the Sandinist People's Army. These include the land that was promised, the financing, and the facilities for agricultural activities, as well as land in the city neighborhoods and the [words indistinct]. None of these promises have been kept. [end recording]

The government delegates and the recontras held various meetings, but they have not yielded the results the recontras expected. Yesterday, the demobilized fighters clearly voiced their dispieasure to Government Minister Carlos Hurtado, who represents the government. If Hurtado does not comply, they will ask for a dialogue at the highest level, recontra leader Bolivar said.

[Begin recording] [Bolivar] We will soon meet with Minister Hurtado and we will clearly demand that he comply with the points that have been discussed. No progress has been made on the issue of the police or the ten commanders who were going to be appointed. If Hurtado does not have the power to decide, then we want to meet with someone from a higher level, for example, with Mr. Lacayo and the president. We want specific actions and no more promises.

[Reporter] You are not pleased with the actions by Hurtado?

[Bolivar] We are going to demand that he comply with the agreements. It has been 15 days since we met, and we have not seen any results. [end recording]

For the first time, it was evident the recontras and the recompas urgently want to disarm. Now that they are willing, it is up to the government to comply with the promises it made at the time the contras disarmed in June 1990. These issues have been brought up again in the various rounds of negotiations with the rearmed rebels.

EPS Suspends Search of Recontra Leader

PA2711143591 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Nov 91 p 1

[Report by Roger Suarez M.]

[Text] Captain Julio Eduardo Medina, of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] Public Relations Office, announced that military operations, which began on 22 November against rearmed groups led by El Indomable [Jose Angel Moran Flores], concluded on 24 November.

A clash in El Mojon, 6 km from San Rafael del Norte, and other skirmishes in mountainous areas of Jinotega resulted in three deaths and four injuries from the ranks of El Indomable. The injured rebels are now recovering at a Jinotega hospital.

Jacinto Diaz, Marcos Rivera, Hernan Pineda, and Carmen Pineda are the four members of El Indomable's ranks recovering at the Amin Hallum Hospital. They were turned over to the OAS International Support and Verification Commission.

The public relations official said that "the aim of the operation against El Indomable was not to capture him, but make it clear that he can no longer violate the law with impunity." The official added that the group led by the rebel penetrated the mountainous area.

"Pursuing him into the depths of the mountains implies the deployment of a large number of troops and the expenditure of economic resources," Capt. Medina stated.

He added that the government does not wish to resume intense war actions in Jinotega, where the coffee harvest will soon begin. "We do not want to give the impression that war is returning to Nicaragua," Capt. Medina said.

This morning radio correspondents reported that the Army was supported by pro-Sandinist recompas in an attempt to capture El Indomable. "This is false, what is happening is that sometimes the Army hires guides, but this does not mean that these guides are recompas," Capt. Medina added.

The same radio reports pointed out that peasants from the north are frightened by the presence of the Army and the soldiers' hostile behavior.

Recompas Take Responsbility for Damaging Stations

PA2711141491 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The recompas have damaged Radio Dario and Radio San Cristobal in Leon and Chinandega. The western Rigoberto Lopez Perez Front of the so-called recompas movement issued a communique claiming responsibility for the actions resulting in material damage to Radio Dario in Leon and Radio San Cristobal in Chinandega. According to the communique, the action is a reaction to the revenge campaigns conducted by Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman and Vice President Virgilio Godoy, which resulted in damage to Commander Carlos Fonseca Amador's tomb on 9 November. The document points out that the people arrested for these actions—Francisco Silva, Freddy Medina, Oscar Somarriba, Rafael Silva, and Julio Ernesto Prieto—are not responsible for the attack. It adds that the (Jacinto Bacha) and Enrique Lorente commando groups carried out the actions against the two radio stations, which are said to be the mouthpieces of reactionary and ultra-rightist interests. The people arrested are held by the Prosecutor's Office in Leon and Chinandega and have been charged with destroying private property. Ismael Ulloa Perez, the defense lawyer for several of the people arrested in this case, revealed the recompas' communique.

Presidency Minister Comments on Mixed Commission

PA2811155491 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] During a meeting held on 26 November, President Violeta Chamorro and National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar, agreed on the work program for the Mixed Commission formed by the executive and legislative branches. The commission is tasked with drafting a law to solve the property problem in our country.

The two government branches agreed that 5 December would be the deadline for the commission to present a final report.

[Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo] "It was agreed that the Mixed Commission, specially created to draft a bill acceptable to both sides, will initiate work and will draft a mutually acceptable bill by 5 December. This draft bill will be sent to the National Assembly for approval. This bill will try to bring order and clarity to all the topics related to the property problem."

Apparently, the meeting has now brought harmony to the relations between the two branches.

[Lacayo] "The commission, which was created by agreement on 1 October, will start its work. We agreed that is the best thing to do. We hope and trust that the Mixed Commission will agree on a mutually acceptable law. If that is achieved, relations will obviously improve."

Alfredo Cesar said the meeting was very friendly. He said the commission will work to find acceptable reforms to the property law.

[Cesar] "During the meeting we took advantage of the friendly atmosphere to clarify aspects that the two parts of the commission previously discussed. We will now wait for the final report that will be presented on 5 December."

Cesar said the assembly will go into session upon receipt of the commission report.

Regarding the Episcopal letter, Lacayo said that ending violence will demand an effort from all Nicaraguans.

Panama

Endara Details Presidential Security Expenditures

PA2611190191 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 Nov 91 p 2

[Letter from President Guillermo Endara to Legislator Guillermo A. Cochez; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Honorable Legislator Guillermo A. Cochez

Legislative Assembly

Honorable Legislator Cochez:

I have received your letter dated 14 November in which you analyze the budget of the Presidency. Unfortunately I do not have time to go over all your remarks, so I will refer only to the two points that have to do with me personally: The Office of the First Lady and the security of the Presidency. [passage omitted]

II. Presidential Security

You have also criticized the budget of the Institutional Protection Service [SPI]. In this regard I will explain to you the following:

1. This institution is not exclusively dedicated to providing security for the president. It provides protection for almost all the ministers and to some Supreme Court justices. It has also served the President of the Legislative Assembly. It also provides its services when international personalities visit Panama. It provides security for some conferences. Finally, it supports the National Police whenever the police needs the SPI's assistance.

2. You claim that SPI officials "earn a minimum montly salary of 400 balboas, while the minimum salary for the police force is 280 balboas. [no closing quotation marks as published] The information you have at your disposal is completely false: Almost 61 percent of the SPI force—235 personnel—earn less than 400 balboas, and 203 SPI agents earn 280 balboas per month. The minimum monthly salary for SPI employees is 208 balboas.

3. It is true that 159,000 balboas are listed under "military materiel and equipment." I do not like that designation either. However, I have established that this designation was derived from the "Manual for the Classification of the Public Expenditures Budget" that has been in effect since August 1980. I will try to change that designation. Part of that apportionment has been used to purchase arms, but another part has been used to buy identification cards, rain jackets, handcuffs, fire extinguishers, and especially ammunition, since intense training is necessary because SPI personnel must be in excellent condition.

4. In my opinion, the times demand that both the president and the Presidential Palace be protected by loyal, qualified, and well trained personnel. The enemies of democracy and their plots are real. I am heir to the Arnulfista philosophy that the Presidential Guard must be directed by the president through officials operating out of the Presidential Palace, with no subordination to other components of the public force. I remind you, honorable legislator, that many people are saying that legislators from your party [the Christian Democratic Party] want the security of the president to be weaker for reasons that I refuse to comment on or to believe.

I appreciate your attention to this letter and I am taking advantage of this opportunity to reiterate to you my highest consideration.

Respectfully yours,
Guillermo Endara Galimany
President of Panama

PRD Legislator: U.S. Envoy Governs Country

PA2611180791 Panama City LA CRONICA in Spanish 20-27 Nov 91 p 7

[Report by Jorge Calvo]

[Text] "The U.S. proconsul in Panama, Deane Hinton, really governs in Panama. It is he who gives economic, political, and social guidelines to the government of President Guillermo Endara." Democratic Revolutionary Party Legislator Miguel Bush has stated in an interview with LA CRONICA. Bush added that Hinton and the Commerce and Industries Ministry signed an agreement that prolongs a bit longer the suffering that we must endure due to the export quotas placed on the Colon Province assembly plants.

"Why? Why was this really done? Export quota permits expire on 31 January of every year and are issued on 1 February of every year. What happened was that the February and March quotas were moved up to November and December of this year to avoid closing the factories now and begin the new period of quotas in April. In other words, we are going to have a slump in manufacturing and exporting in February and March of next year," Bush explained.

"To summarize, the Commerce and Industries Ministry negotiated the 1992 quotas to cover the remaining two months of this year," he added.

After explaining that the Colon Free Zone is one thing and the assembly plants are another, Bush indicated that almost 93 percent of the personnel working at the assembly plants come from the Atlantic Coast, basically from the Transisthmian Highway area, whereas almost 45 percent of the Free Zone staff come from Panama City and hold the best jobs with the top salaries.

Article Notes Cuban 'Interference' in Country

PA2811194691 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 24 Nov 91 p 6a

["Part I" of article by Juan Carlos Galesio Navarro: "Cuban Interference in Panama"]

[Text] When General Torrijos decided to establish diplomatic and commercial ties with Cuba, he never could have imagined that that country would help change Panama's history.

This analyst obtained from diplomatic sources a confidential report explaining the activities of the America Department of Cuba. The America Department is a Cuban political body that is separate from the rest of the state organizations on that Caribbean island. Its headquarters is in the seat of the Communist Party of Cuba in the city of Havana. Its members pose as diplomats outside of Cuba in order to have the immunity to enable them to carry out their acts with impunity. The America Department members even operate from the diplomatic missions accredited outside of their country.

The members' modus operandi is blackmail, lies, and corruption. Their activities include establishing networks and obtaining the support of professionals who have graduated from law school. They also enlist the support of doctors, students, politicians, and ambitious businessmen, who serve as useful idiots for their operational destabilization plans based on ideological interests. They do not hesitate to incite and promote chaos that leads to social outbreaks, such as those that occurred in Venezuela (Caracazo-February 1989), Argentina (at the outset of the Carlos Menem administration), and Nicaragua. The coordinators of such movements were members of the America Department. With the help of the local communists, they created the appropriate conditions for General Noriega to strengthen his ties with Havana. In the case of Panama, as opposed to other countries, the America Department members had the help of members of the former Panama Defense Forces, who responded to Noriega's wishes. There were no pressure groups or insurgent movements, such as guerrillas or terrorists.

While Panama enjoyed peace and harmony, the rest of Latin America was plagued with class struggles and mountain clashes between guerrillas and Army troops; the guerillas were financed by Cuba and the Army by the United States. Few people realize that this was mainly because Cubans were working inside the government and there was no need to resort to weapons to attain power. The America Department members could use Panama for as many illegal activities as they wished, whimsically managing politicians, businessmen, and soldiers. Some Cuban born businessmen prospered economically and their businesses soared, sponsored by capital from the Castroite government. In addition to these businesses there were Panamanian companies, which still operate under impeccable commercial facades, in Panama City and the Colon Free Zone. These companies continue to conduct commercial transactions between various countries and Cuba, violating the economic blockade imposed by the United States more than 30 years ago. The businessmen who direct these operations have multiple visas to enter and leave the United States and to travel constantly to Panama. Some even have U.S. resident status.

The America Department members chose Panama as the center of its activities since 1980 and later transferred it to Managua, following the overthrow of Gen. Noriega. It now directs isthmian operations from there. The report states that the chiefs of the America Department in the Nicaraguan Embassy are the political advisers **COMAS** and **PEDRO LOAINA**. As an example of the operations carried out by this department in Panama, it is noted that up until 1982 **LUIS HERNANDEZ** was the chief in Panama with the post of adviser. He was replaced by experienced **JOSE LUIS OJALDRO MITRANI**, who was from Colombia; Ojaldro was the chief of that department until Colombia broke diplomatic relations with Cuba. The relations between the two countries were severed when the Colombian Government confirmed that Colombian guerrillas were organized and financed by Havana and supplied with important military materiel from Cuba. According to the report, Ojaldro continued to work in Panama through political leaders, such as **MARCEL SALAMIN, JOSE BLANDON**, and the **SOUZA** brothers of the People's Party. Ojaldro lived in a building behind the San Fernando Clinic near the home of Joe Blandon; he was able to visit Blandon frequently. Ojaldro drove a Honda vehicle with a diplomatic license place from the Cuban Embassy in Panama.

The official of the American Department arranged it so that Panama was a place of meeting, rest, hospitalization, and residence for the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front, FMLN, of El Salvador. It was also the site of a meeting between Major **D'AUBUISSON**, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, and members of the America Department of Cuba in Panama. The report notes that the objective of the meeting was to negotiate an end to the hostilities.

The America Department members purchased communications equipment in the Free Zone for the Salvadoran and Colombian guerrillas. They held meetings in Panama with the Colombian guerrillas. The meetings were attended by **NAVARRO WOLF, ROSENBERG PAVON, JAIME BATEMAN**, who through their contacts in Panama provided them with Panamanian documents so that they could travel to Cuba and other countries. Thanks to the contacts they had within the FDP, Cuba sent weapons through Panama to Colombia. According to the report, during the government of Noriega the Cubans had former Major **FELIPE CAMARGO** as their liaison agent. The officer, accompanied by members of the America Department, traveled to Cuba on 14 February 1988 and met with Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Manuel Pineiro, chief ot he America Department alias **BARBA ROJA**, Jose Luis Arevalo, Fidel Martinez, and Jose Felix Rodriguez. They spoke with General **ABRANTES**, who at the time was Cuban interior minister, to promote the creation and training of the **DIGNITY BATTALIONS**.

Support was arranged and the America Department was in charge of training.

A meeting, which lasted from 1010 in the morning until 1415 in the afternoon, was held on 15 February 1988.

In 1988, the America Department of Cuba shared offices with members of the FDP [National Defense Forces] in a house called El Manguito, which was one of the FDP's intelligence centers.

El Manguito was located in a building in the El Cangrejo neighborhood where a national theatrical school is located today.

Intelligence and counterintelligence information was compiled in this house. This information was used to formulate plans by members of the America Department and a small group of officers who supported Noriega, led by Felipe Camargo and Lieutenant Benjamin Ku Sanchez (identification number 12691 of the FDP), both assigned to El Manguito from November 1986 until the invasion of Panama.

Jose Luis Ojaldro, who was an adviser, was replaced by Felix Luna in 1984.

According to the report, Ojaldro remained as Felix Luna's superior. Ojaldro traveled constantly to Panama with other officials of the America Department. Martin Tomas Cala, alias Martincito, was prominent among these officials.

These established America Department members took advantage of the ideological interest and desperation of the Panamanian Government and began to reap economic benefits for themselves.

Noriega's informers who, according to the report, worked with that department were Lieutenant Colonel Luis Papo Cordoba, Captain Luis Quiel, Darisnel Espino, Ramiro Vasquez Chambonet, Nils Castro, and Lucho Gomez. These informers met with Luna and Ojaldro, who traveled from Havana accompanied by a man named Marquez.

The America Department soon directed and controlled Panamanian ports, mainly Vacamonte, where it intercepted U.S. Southern Command communications through its fishing fleet anchored permanently in that port.

Noreiga had other contacts with the Cuban Embassy, including Alfredo Pila de Amez, Oscar B. Gutierrez, Lazaro Mora (former ambassador and current director of the America Department in the Cuban Foreign Ministry), and Miguel Perez Cruz, according to the report.

Some of these officials rented apartments in the Senorial 50 building in the San Francisco neighborhood.

A group from the America Department of Cuba accompanied 80 Panamanian politicians and businessmen to the Caribbean island in August 1988.

The Panamanian group was accompanied by Major Gonzalo Gonzalez and Lt. Col. Luis Cordoba.

The America Department coordinated actions through an undercover agent by the name of "Jesus," who negotiated the transfer of military weapons to Panama in February 1988.

The transportation of military weapons was confirmed by statements made by Panamanian pilots and military personnel connected with the operation.

The Cubans indicated that the weapons were from Libya. This attitude was due to the rivalry with the Libyans, who were engaged in commercial activities and did not want to interfere in Panama's internal problems. The Cubans, however, took advantage of the international political confrontation between Libya and the United States.

The same occurred with the money sent to Panama via Cuba. The money was not from Libya, but from drug trafficking directly from the America Department in Havana.

Felipe Camargo accompanied members of the America Department and mercenary Mike Harari to Cuba on three occasions in 1986.

Harari proposed to Cuba that Israel would be willing to establish diplomatic and commercial relations with Cuba if Cuban intelligence services helped them find Nazi criminals in Paraguay.

Harari spoke with Castro on several occasions.

Harari made five other trips to Cuba in 1988 accompanied by Capt. Felix Rodriguez, because at the time Camargo was in the United States, according to the report.

The Israeli mercenary met with members of the America Department and other officials of the Cuban Embassy in Panama in El Manguito. According to the report, the meetings were attended by Rafael Cedeno (secretary of General Noriega) and former Maj. Pascual Gonzalez.

Felix Luna, who was decorated by the Panamanian Government, was replaced by Martin Tomas Cala in 1989.

Cala was expelled on 13 June 1990 with the rest of the Cuban diplomatic personnel and, in spite of this action, returned to Panama in May 1991 and stayed here for 15 days.

The members of the America Department in Cuba have continued to arrive in Panama via Nicaragua or Venezuela, when they cannot obtain a visa in Havana to enter Panama.

In future articles we will outline what businesses in the Free Zone and Panama violate the U.S. blockade and trade with Cuba, the list of Panamanian informers of the America Department, and some of the activities of the Cuban Embassy since the invasion.

Assassins Reportedly Threaten Chiriqui Attorneys

PA2611201991 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 26 Nov 91 p 8c

[Text] Chiriqui—Intelligence services have detected the existence of an alleged group of hired assassins, who reportedly intend to attack officials combating drug-trafficking activities in Chiriqui Province. Several municipal attorneys have asked for transfers because of the threats.

According to information we have received, there is a group called OSPA [not further identified] in Puerto Armuelles. The members of this group have purchased firearms, communication radios, motorcycles, and other vehicles for their alleged operations.

In addition, two municipal attorneys from Baru District have asked the Attorney General's Office for transfers due to a series of telephone threats they have received.

The home of one of the officials has been stoned by unidentified individuals on various occasions, allegedly a message to discourage the investigation of Chiriqui drug traffickers.

The Attorney General's Office announced it will ask the National Police and the Judicial Technical Police to provide the necessary security measures for these officials.

The Chiriqui areas of Puerto Armuelles and Punta Burica are used by drug traffickers using small airplanes to drop cocaine bags, which are later picked up by motorboats.

Authorities also have reports that trucks belonging to a customs company from Panama City are being used to carry weapons to Puerto Armuelles.

In addition, there are reports that some foreigners, presumably Argentines, have been training Panamanians in the handling of weapons, especially in the Chiriqui highlands as well as Guabito, Base Line, and Almirante in Bocas del Toro Province.

Argentina

Menem Departs for G-15, Rio Group Meetings

PY2811133491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1107 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (NA)—President Carlos Menem departed early this morning for Caracas, Venezuela, where he will attend a Group of 15, G-15, meeting, during which he will demand the elimination of the subsidized agricultural policy implemented by the EEC.

Menem, who is accompanied by Andres Antonietti, chief of the military household of the Presidency, and Menem's spokesman Humberto Toledo, among others, left in the TC-91 presidential plane at 0230. Menem declined to make remarks at the airport.

On 30 November he will depart Caracas for Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, where the presidents of the Rio Group member countries will meet.

Official sources told NA that during this meeting Menem will propose the need to intensify inter-American cooperation. He will again repeat his demand for "a democratic solution" in Cuba, and will voice his support for the defense of the environment.

In Venezuela, Menem will meet with presidents of five Latin American countries—members of the Group of 15, made up of Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Jamaica, Yugoslavia, Algeria, Senegal, Egypt, Nigeria, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, and Zimbawbe.

The Group of 15 will analyze the economic conditions of their respective countries and demand help from countries of the northern hemisphere. Menem will ask that the subsidies on grain exports be eliminated.

In Cartagena, he will insist on the need to promote "a gesture of goodwill" from Cuban leader Fidel Castro to try to find "a democratic solution" in the island.

The Rio Group comprises Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Jamaica.

It has been learned that during this meeting Menem will receive reproaches from his counterparts because of some of the decisions he made, including the sending of Argentine vessels to the Persian Gulf and his withdrawal from the Nonaligned Movement.

The presidents will discuss subjects on the need to strengthen the inter-American system, the antidrug struggle, and the Americas Initiative proposed by U.S. President George Bush.

Second Deregulation Package Announced

PY2711233691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Nov 91 p 3

[Text] (NA-DYN)—A second deregulation package was announced by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo yesterday, doing away with the promotion regimes for the steel, shipbuilding, aluminum, aerospace and road machinery industries.

It also does away with export regulations and taxes in the dairy, meat, grains, tobacco and timber industries.

Cavallo also announced that import statements will have to be published in the Official Gazette to prevent dumping practices from now on and that this second deregulation package is in force retroactively from November 1.

He also affirmed that the government has demanded Iberia for full payment of the Aerolineas Argentinas purchase and that it hopes to go through with the sale of the remaining 30 percent government stake in ENTel [National Communications Enterprise] by December 9.

Cavallo also said that he is working on an import regime for the motor car industry, based on quotas not tariffs, and that a new Petroleum Secretariat is being formed with former Catamarca trustee Luis Prol in charge.

Federal revenue sharing funds will be conditioned to fiscal discipline in the provinces, Cavallo said, adding that a six percent increase ceiling has been set on provincial and federal expenditure this year.

Earlier in the day, Cavallo had said at the Olivos presidential residence that Argentina has not requested a waiver from the International Monetary Fund. Additionally, he said that an IMF commission currently in Buenos Aries has approved fiscal objectives pertaining to the last quarter of the year contained in a letter of intent.

He reiterated that IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus will be arriving in Buenos Aires today to hold talks with Argentine economic authorities exclusively concerning the possibility of granting this country an estimated 3.4 billion [no currency as published] extended facility loan early next year.

The economy minister stressed that revenue raised through the sale of shares of the former ENTel state-owned company will be used to bolster pension fund coffers, and angrily dismissed press allegations that the government planned to use sales proceeds to close the fiscal gap and thereby meet IMF targets in the last quarter of the year.

Cavallo and President Carlos Menem held a meeting at the Olivos presidential residence yesterday with executives of the Sevel and Fiat Italia automobile companies. Talks centered on ways of reactivating the automobile industry and on providing protection for domestic manufacturers. "Currently a system of protection through

import tariffs is in force, but the industrialists prefer a system of quotas. This is the issue we are analysing," Cavallo said.

The Economy Ministry, meanwhile, said yesterday that fiscal revenue was 2.8 percent below estimates for the first three weeks of November.

IMF's Camdessus Notes Confidence in Economy

PY2811162091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1051 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Nov (TELAM)—IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus yesterday said that "he sees no obstacles" for the disbursement of the second installment of the IMF stand-by loan to Argentina "before the end of the year," adding that he will resume his talks with Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo at the beginning of January "in order to discuss the implementation of an extended facility loan towards the end of the first quarter of 1992."

Camdessus held a news conference after almost two hours of talks with Argentina's entire economic team. He said that the IMF "does not advocate" an increase of the tax burden, adding that "neither have I talked" about the need for a more stringent adjustment.

Because Camdessus was running behind on his agenda he gave the many journalists waiting for him at the economy ministry only 20 minutes and he did not allow any questions. Camdessus began in a near-poetic fashion by saying that it was the first time he arrived in Buenos Aires—where he has relatives—"with the jacaranda flowering and the inflation under 1 percent," a remark that drew a smile from Minister Cavallo seated to his right.

Camdessus explained that he spent most of his time with the economic team on "looking into the future rather than at the technical data of the program currently in effect," since these data are being evaluated by IMF technicians whom he claimed to "trust a great deal."

He said: "Argentina is complying with its obligations satisfactorily, which gives me hope that it will comply in the future as well."

Upon being asked whether Argentina should ask for a "waiver" [preceding word in English] (pardon), for allegedly failing to fulfill the targets for the July-September quarter, Camdessus answered: "The experts have talked about certain technical adjustments to the agreements in effect and the complex interfering factors. We have had no particular difficulties deciding which technical adjustments are required, and I do not doubt that the IMF executive board will approve them."

During his news conference Camdessus emphasized that inflation in Argentina has "dropped like a stone," that interest rates have gone down along with it, that the economy is "recovering swiftly," and that investments are "growing." He considered the fact that "the country has began to change its organizations to become more efficient," as equally important.

Camdessus said: Now is the time to "shore up all that has been accomplished," and to go on with the economic opening, the financial streamlining of the provinces, and the reform of the social security system.

In his opinion the economic growth target of 7-10 percent set for 1992 seems to be "very ambitious," adding that the Argentine Government "has a more modest and realistic estimate combining low inflation and high growth rate." In response to this remark, Minister Cavallo said: "I agree."

Camdessus denied that the IMF is advocating an increase of the tax burden, explaining that these sorts of measures "are not the best for a country that wants to grow," and labeled "wise" the decision of the Argentine Government "against" increasing the tax burden.

Camdessus insisted that the IMF is not calling for a more stringent adjustment. "The one that has been implemented was necessary because one must take into account the costs of not making an adjustment: unemployment and hyperinflation." He added: "now we see that inflation-related tensions are disappearing and new jobs are being created. Thus, it is worth going on with this adjustment program."

Oil Firm Receives $28 Million World Bank Loan

PY2611223891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2316 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Summary] Washington, 20 NOv (TELAM)—The World Bank has granted a loan of $28 million to Government Oil Deposits for its reorganization and privatization program. The loan is for 17 years, with a five-year grace, and a variable interest rate which is currently 7.7 percent.

Pierri Reelected Chamber of Deputies President

PY2811173291 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Report by Pedro Leon from Chamber of Deputies]

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies of the nation is still in session.

After the ceremony to administer the oath of office to the new deputies elected, Deputy Dr. Alberto Pierri was elected by a large majority and for the fourth consecutive time as Chamber of Deputies president. As the deputies applauded, Pierri again occupied the presidential chair. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Paz Seeks Joint International Antidrug Strategy

PY2711213491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 24 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora yesterday firmly supported Bolivia's antidrug strategy, demanding joint and equal efforts for fighting this scourge instead of the unilateral fight that has been waged so far.

The president read a 16-page speech in the final part of the International Conference on Drugs and Alcoholism, which was sponsored by the Vatican and attended by 2,000 people from 101 countries.

The president began by saying that the conference had "a restriction," because it focused primarily on drug consumption and its consequences, that is, "the problems of rich, industrialized countries."

By leaving aside the production of raw materials and the interdiction of illegal trafficking, the conference runs the risk of "making a partial assessment and formulating incomplete recommendations," the president said.

The most outstanding part of his lecture, however, was contained in items 5 and 6 of the "decalogue" with which Paz Zamora summarized the Bolivian position toward the complex problems of drugs.

Item 5 states: "Control of the international trade of chemical formulas and substances, which are known as precursors, should be as strict as control on coca leaf sales and coca farms yielding surplus production."

Item 6 states: "The world (antidrug) strategy should provide for mechanisms for evaluating, with equal criteria and accuracy, the progress and results of joint action for reducing consumption, controlling drug trafficking, and promoting alternative development, in order to guarantee that the program will be equitably and harmoniously implemented."

These two items clearly reflect the Bolivian experience in the recent years of the antidrug fight.

As for precursors, Paz Zamora said that "cocaine is the result of coca leaves plus precursors," and that drug production control is therefore very difficult if efforts concentrate on coca leaves while no control is exercised on chemicals, which are produced and sold almost exclusively by industrialized countries.

In case of the "evaluation," it is also evident that "targets" and "commitments" have thus far been imposed only on coca leaf producers, while there are no "targets" for reducing consumption or for controlling traffickers in other countries.

Paz Zamora emphasized that the "strongest efforts" within the world's antidrug strategy must aim at "reducing consumption and the offer of raw material." Success at those two ends of the drug-trafficking chain will influence, "through its own weight," the intermediate stages of drug production and trafficking.

The president's lecture at the conference marked the end of his official agenda in Rome and the Vatican. He previously had met with Italian Council of Ministers Chairman Giulio Andreotti and the Italian interior minister.

Today Paz Zamora will return to Bolivia, where he will arrive at noon on 25 November.

Government Seeks More Time for Coca Eradication

PY2711215291 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 23 Nov 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Bolivian Ambassador to the United States Jorge Crespo yesterday stated that the government is not willing to lose the $22 million it will receive from the United States for eradicating 7,000 hectares of coca plantations by the end of the year, and announced that he will ask U.S. officials for a deadline extension to achieve this objective.

"Thirty-one December is not a fatal date; the Bolivian Embassy in Washington is there to carry out negotiations and not to lose the $22 million," Crespo said optimistically during a news conference he initially called to deny presumed U.S. pressures to reform the Bolivian mining code.

According to the ambassador, U.S. members of Congress, who could give Bolivia a new deadline, "will understand that we have not eradicated the agreed-upon amount of coca plantations for reasons beyond our control."

"We are going to begin intense lobbying activities in Congress to ask them for additional time. But what we (Bolivians) must do is fulfill the eradication objective as soon as possible because there is the danger of losing the $22 million if we delay this too much," he warned.

The expected U.S. disbursement is the last of three equal packages the United States has offered in exchange of an eradication goal, but Bolivia only has managed to eradicate 4,600 hectares of coca plantations, according to recent official reports.

Crespo explained that the high prices paid for coca leaves in the last few months have prevented the fulfillment of the program and the peasants from accepting a voluntary eradication of their plantations in exchange for compensation of $2,000 offered by the government.

He also admitted that the slow pace with which Bolivia is carrying out its replacement and alternative development plans also has been the cause of the program's failure.

"The alternative development plan is not in as an advanced stage as we wanted (...). And for this reason we are asking the international community, and not only the

United States, to increase its aid to Bolivia much more," he said. He added that the peasants plant coca "because they simply do not have an economic alternative."

In this regard, the ambassador said the Bolivian Government will not use violence against the peasants to force them to change their attitude.

"You must record this very well. This government is not going to use violence against peasants because they are innocent people," he told reporters. [passage omitted]

Legal Coca Market Inaugurated in La Paz

PY2811171691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] A legal coca market, which will begin operating today at a former match factory property in Villa Fatima District in the city of La Paz, was inaugurated today. Government officials, diplomatic representatives, and thousands of coca farmers from the Yungas region were present at the inauguration.

La Paz Department Prefect Fernando Cajias said this was proof of the results that can be achieved through talks and concerted action between government officials and coca farmers.

For his part, Dante Lodini, the Coca Control and Supervision [Control y Fiscalizacion de Hojas de Coca] national director, pointed out that the inauguration of this market represents the fulfillment of a promise that the president of the nation made in a meeting with coca farmers in the town of La Asunta. Lodini also discussed the scope of this project:

[Begin recording] We are inaugurating this legal coca market mainly because the farmers asked for it. This will allow the concentration of coca here. It will allow the retailers to carry the coca to various market places or various sales points.

What are we gaining with this? Primarily, the control and supervision of coca that was previously done very superficially.

Now, all the [coca farmers] federations have their storehouse. They will bring their goods here and they will take their goods out of here.

We are taking away the responsibility from the farmers because they were previously blamed for deviating [coca for other purposes]. Therefore, the farmers will bring coca here, and then it will become clear, especially for the people abroad, that the farmers have nothing to do with deviations and other things related to drug trafficking and all that. [end recording]

Banzer on Respect for Majority Vote in Elections

PY2811144291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The president of the Patriotic Accord political committee has voiced his position of respecting the majority vote in the upcoming municipal elections scheduled in our country.

While emphasizing the importance of these draft bills [not further specified], General Hugo Banzer Suarez said that, despite the opposition parties' refusal to accept this proposal, we, the Patriotic Accord, maintain our position:

[Begin recording, in progress] ... the country with a political party to sign and implement a pact for democracy.

My party fulfilled this pact. I personally fulfilled it. I have not broken it. I have not broken the pact for democracy. It was broken here at the Government Palace and no one was kind enough to advise me over the telephone that it was being broken. In other words, I kept my word; others did not.

The catholic church called us the political leaders with congressional representatives or basically the candidates that received the largest number of votes in the 1989 elections. In that meeting we accepted a commitment and we have fully, totally, fulfilled it. There is nothing that we have not fulfilled.

Afterwards, in February [not further specified], we the political leaders signed another commitment here at the Congress building and I have fulfilled it. We have fulfilled it. The Patriotic Accord has fully fulfilled it. At this moment, we are witnessing the fulfillment of that commitment.

In Santa Cruz, I proposed—in the name of the Patriotic Accord—to the political parties a few weeks ago to sign a political agreement while the constitution is amended.

Incidentally, at the seminar where we discussed contitutional amendments, I proposed to the political parties, which had signed agreements, to sign an agreement on respecting those who receive the largest number of votes. [end recording]

Brazil

Collor Signs Decree Promoting Senior Officers

PY2711235491 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Nov 91 p 7

[Numbers and branches of officers as published]

[Text] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor yesterday promoted 11 general officers: three from the Navy, three from the Army, and five from the Air Force. With this promotion, two four-star generals will leave active duty:

General Antenor de Santa Cruz, military commander of the Amazon, and Brigadier Marcio Teresino Drumont, current commander general of the air.

The reorganization within the Armed Forces' three branches has confirmed those promoted within the Navy in their current posts in Rio de Janeiro. They are: Vice Admirals Paulo Augusto Garcia Drumont and Humberto Araujo, and Rear Admiral Raul Pereira Bittencourt, who have been acting armament and communications director, acting health director, and acting electronic center director, respectively.

In the Army, General Carlos Anibal Pacheco has been named chief of the Military Command of the Amazon (CMA), replacing Santa Cruz, and Brigade General Ariel Pereira da Fonseca has been named chief of the CMA staff, replacing Division General Thaumaturgo Sotero Vaz, who retired after 12 years as general.

Still in the Army, Army General Luis Gonzaga de Oliveira assumed became head of the Engineering and Communications Department (DEC), while Division General Gleuber Vieira will remain as deputy chief of the Army staff.

In the Air Force, the reorganization published yesterday stated that Brigadier Fernando Nogueira, current Social Communications Center chief, will be commander of the Air Force Academy in Pirassununga, while Brigadier Luiz Carlos da Silva Bueno, current Military Household chief, will take his place.

Vice President Franco Discusses Economy

PY2811230291 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Nov 91 Section 1 p 10

[Written interview with Vice President Itamar Franco; date not given]

[Excerpts] [FOLHA] The country now is experiencing one of the most serious recessions in Brazilian history. Do you think a recession is necessary for stabilizing the economy?

[Franco] I don't think so because throughout our history recession has remarkably aggravated the social crisis. Recession can disrupt the economy and push the unemployment rate to high levels, and it may have unpredictable social consequences in a country where, unfortunately, absolute misery still prevails. [passage omitted]

[FOLHA] What is necessary in order to optimize the tax system?

[Franco] As I see it, the best path is to make it more just and equitable from a social viewpoint. Reforms should be broader and deeper, making it possible for the country to resume economic growth with just distribution of the tax burden.

[FOLHA] Do you think Congress is ready for the parliamentary system of government?

[Franco] Congress can easily adjust itself to a possible change in the system of government.

[FOLHA] One of the promises of your electoral campaign was to put Brazil in the First World. Is Brazil heading for that goal?

[Franco] It is always good to recall that the vice president also was elected. As for that target, I believe we still have a long way to go. Our efforts have sometimes become very hard and difficult because of the policies adopted by developed countries, and we have had no chance of changing the mechanisms that are actually ruling the international economic process. [passage omitted]

[FOLHA] Are you in favor of the 147-percent readjustment that the courts have granted to retired workers and that the government has refused to pay?

[Franco] Obviously, I believe that now that the matter has been submitted to the judicial branch, the courts will analyze it taking into account the constitutional principle that the correction and preservation of the monetary value of allowances cannot be canceled. From a social viewpoint—and this is the angle from which I would prefer to analyze the subject—I believe that the retired workers' demand is totally just.

Economy Minister Authorizes Uniform Purchase

PY2911005491 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Nov 91 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira authorized yesterday the liberation of 1.167 billion cruzeiros for the purchase of Army uniforms. This figure is less than 2.2 percent of the budget of 51 billion cruzeiros expected by the General Services Department (DGS) for the purchase of the necessary material for the conscripts to be inducted early in 1992.

On 26 November, General Agenor Homem de Carvalho, chief of the presidential Military Household, who was irritated with the delay in the liberation of resources authorized by President Fernando Collor on 22 November, was able to get Minister Marques Moreira to release the money. The National Accounting Office (TCU) suspended the Army's bidding for the purchase of uniforms on suspicion of irregularities and gave a deadline of 1 December to make corrections.

The first portion of the liberated resources really represents 20 percent of the value for the purchase of uniforms in the original budget, which was only 5 billion cruzeiros. According to current legislation, the Economy Ministry has the power to authorize the liberation of only 20 percent of the allotment, that is 1.167 billion cruzeiros. What the Army wants and what Gen. Homem de Carvalho was able to get from Minister Marques Moreira was to send to Congress a message asking authorization for the transfer of more than 50 billion cruzeiros for various items. By yesterday afternoon the message had not been received yet by Congress.

Strategic Affairs Official Lauds Nuclear Accord

PY2911020491 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Presidential Strategic Affairs Secretary Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos said today that the agreement between Brazil and Argentina for the peaceful use of nuclear energy is another step forward in the path of a Latin America free of nuclear arms. The secretary said the government will sign the agreement only after Congress authorizes it.

[Begin recording] This is a four-party agreement. Participating, ... signing the agreement are Brazil, Argentina, [name indistinct] Agency, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. We expect, ... we will follow the evolution of this process in Congress. Obviously, no other step will be taken before the agreement's approval by Congress. Only Congress has the authority to approve the Brazil-Argentina agreement. [end recording]

Strategic Affairs Secretary Pedro Paulo Leoni today attended a meeting of the Chamber of Deputies' National Defense Committee to discuss the Brazil-Argentina nuclear agreement.

Japanese Businessmen Set Investment Conditions

PY2611142291 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 26 Nov 91

[Text] The three basic conditions for Japanese businessmen to invest in Brazil are: The completion of an agreement with the IMF, control of inflation, and the end of the public deficit.

The head of the Japanese mission said that solving these three problems is indispensable for the resumption of Japanese investment in Brazil. (Soishi Taba), head of the Keidaren [Federation of Economic Organizations] Mission, has said that he is impressed with the structural modifications being implemented by the Brazilian Government.

Chile

Socialist International Meeting Ends in Santiago

PY2811015091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Democratic socialism will be the alternative to the capitalist wave that is spreading throughout the world. This statement was made by representatives of East Europe and Latin America at the International Socialist meeting that ended today in Santiago.

After the fall of the communist regimes, the Socialist International portrays itself as the great leftist, democratic, peace-seeking, and progressive alternative.

Representatives of political parties of East European and Latin American countries agreed that their economies must adjust themselves to free market systems. They maintained, however, that this objective will not be achieved by merely enforcing capitalist models that, to the contrary, have seriously reduced the income level of the majority of the people.

[Begin former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin recording, in progress] ... so that they do not shift to the other end, that is, to advocate the creation of the religion of market, because it is obvious that the participation of the state must be made compatible with the market. The state has to regulate the market and has to distribute the income, for which purpose it has to play a role within the market. In addition, the state also should formulate development strategies that the market cannot always establish. [end recording]

[Begin Polish Socialist Party leader Piotr Inewicz recording] One evening is enough for introducing communism. At least a decade is necessary for building a market economy. Therefore, we have to carry out a revolution within the economy in order to create market economy conditions. This justifies state intervention to an extent that is much more intense than current state intervention in West European countries. [end recording]

Former Spanish vice president—currently PSOE [Spanish Socialist Labor Party] general under secretary—Alfonso Guerra also advocated the renewal of socialism. He emphasized that Spanish and Chilean socialism share similar principles.

[Begin Guerra recording] It is renewed socialism that keeps abreast of changes within society. Society changes very fast and parties catch up with it in order to reflect the people's aspirations. [end recording]

[Begin Chilean Socialist Party President Ricardo Nunez recording] We are bound by feelings and appreciation, but especially our common views on changes in freedom within our society. [end recording]

In its closing session, the International Socialist showed that it is a great world forum. There was applause when the Palestinian delegate, Hanna Sinyurah, and an Israeli Labor Party member of Congress voiced their wishes to openly and conclusively negotiate on a definitive peace for the Middle East.

The next International Socialist meeting will be in Madrid in March 1992.

Group Approves 14 Resolutions

PY2811130491 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] The Socialist International, which met in Santiago, approved 14 resolutions on the political and economic situation and on the environment. Socialist International Vice President Enrique Silva Cimma explained why the meeting was held in Chile:

[Begin recording] The Socialist International, to a certain extent, wanted to know about the implications of democratic consolidation in Chile, the end of the authoritarian regime, and the return to democracy in Chile. This is the reason why an important number of people from different parties, representating more than 80 countries, attended this meeting, in which relevant subjects were discussed. [end recording]

During a news conference a representative of this socialist organization reported on the resolutions adopted:

[Begin unidentified representative recording] We approved resolutions on the Latin American integration process, the situations in Haiti and El Salvador, the political development in Guyana, drug trafficking, the socioeconomic situation in the western hemisphere, especially concerning the Americas, Eastern Europe and the situation in the Soviet Union, the Middle East, which was unanimously approved, and two resolutions on peace and security: one on general matters and the other one focusing on the international transfer of weapons. [end recording]

The two-day meeting sponsored by the Socialist International ended with a lunch in a country house in Santiago.

Letelier Suspect Rejects Criminal Registration

PY2711234491 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Retired General Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, who was indicted on charges of alleged responsibility for the homicide of Orlando Letelier, and who is being held at the military hospital, today refused to meet with Civil Registry officials who had to record his picture and fingerprints in a special registry that it keeps for those who have been prosecuted for a crime.

The officials arrived at the hospital at about 1200, and they left after waiting more than 90 minutes.

In the case of Brigadier Pedro Espinoza, who also was indicted in the Letelier case, the situation was different. Espinoza had no problems in meeting with registry officials who arrived at the Army Telecommunications Command, where he is being held.

It has been learned that Gen. Contreras asked that Army personnel register his picture and fingerprints. Well-informed sources have not ruled out the possibility that the former Dina [National Intelligence Directorate] official may be taken to the Civil Registry Office for recording his picture and fingerprints, as is done with all indicted people.

This step is a consequence of a decision by the fourth panel of the Supreme Court, which confirmed the indictment of Contreras and Espinoza for their alleged responsibility in the homicide of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

Meanwhile, Gen. Contreras' lawyers asked the Secretariat of the Supreme Court for a certificate indicating the dates on which the lawsuits for the murder of Letelier were filed. It has been said that the objective of this step is to enforce the statute of limitations in the crime that is being investigated.

The indicted prisoners' lawyers have said that, at the latest by this weekend, they will request that both be released on bail.

Report on Political Murder of Spaniard in 1976

PY2911015891 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] According to a report by homicide agents, Dina [National Intelligence Directorate] agents murdered international official Carmelo Soria for political reasons in 1976.

This information was released by lawyer Alfonso Insunza, who along with Carmen Soria—the daughter of the murdered official, released the conclusions of an investigation by homicide detectives. The investigation was ordered by Judge (Dobra Lucci).

[Begin Insunza recording] First, the report says that Carmelo Soria was the victim of manslaughter. The second conclusion is that Dina agents are involved. The third conclusion is that Soria died in the house of (Richard Townley), in Lo Curro. The fourth key factor is that it was a political murder. [end recording]

Soria was murdered in 1976. Today an official report said that he was the victim of homicide. At that time, the media reported the death of Soria—who was a Spanish citizen—in a highway accident in the channel across La Piramide.

Insunza said that Chile and the United Nations signed an agreement in 1954 granting diplomatic immunity to ECLA [Economic Commission for Latin America] officials. This will justify a request for the designation of a special judge to investigate the case, Insunza said. The daughter of the murdered official added that the United Nations, through ECLA, could endorse this request.

A Spanish Government reaction is expected in the next few days.

Colombia

Eight Judicial Officials Dead in Attack in Usme

PA2711130991 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1219 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] The Colombian Government termed abominable the attack on a judicial mission in Usme, Cundinamarca Department, in which eight judiciary officials died. Cesar Naranjo, a businessman at the site of the attack, was also killed. Luis Miguel Angarita, judge 75 of the arraigning court; Amanda Gomez Vargas, a secretary;

Dr. Jaime Puerto; Hector Ojeda, attorney; Hernando Trujillo, judicial official; Elquin Ruiz Roa, a policeman; Hector Romero, a driver; and Alfonso Garcia, a judicial policeman, were killed.

Government Minister Hector de la Calle Lombana asked that the executive branch be granted protection in view of the latest acts of violence, which the guerrillas had warned they would carry out [adelantados por la guerrilla]. For Justice Minister Hernando Carrillo Flores, the attack is serious at a time when the country is working to strengthen justice.

Asonal Judicial, the judges and justice officials union, called a general strike in view of the new massacre against those who administer justice in the country.

According to Asonal Judicial, a wake will be held for the eight judiciary officials in the Palo Quemado court building.

The government has abstained from blaming the guerrillas for the attack against the judicial mission in Usme, Cundinamarca Department.

Government Minister Hector de la Calle Lombana said it is necessary to await the result of the investigation to define the government's position, in the event the massacre was carried out by guerrillas. If that is the case, he said, it would become a very serious incident for the future of the talks with the guerrillas. He labeled the attack serious and said the situation in the capital is difficult.

Government Condemns Murders

PA2711191491 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria and Government Minister Humberto de la Calle, first thing on the morning of 27 November, analyzed the tragic incident in Usme. The government strongly condemned the murders and warned the guerrillas that all measures necessary will be taken to protect public order in the country.

[Begin De la Calle recording] Right now, I cannot attribute the incident to the guerrillas. I would prefer not to comment on this latest development for the time being. In general terms, we have been saying that although the government is ready to hold talks, it will only be possible to resume the talks if we have a climate that reasonably allows us to return to Caracas. The government is extremely concerned about what is happening. We have intelligence reports that reveal the possibility of a terrorist escalation. Incidents such as these would tend to prove those reports accurate. We would have to assess the entire situation when the times comes to decide to return to Caracas. [end recording]

Attack Attributed to FARC

PA2711151591 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Interview with National Security Adviser Ricardo Santamaria by unidentified reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [First reporter] Does the government know for sure the identity of the group that on 26 November murdered seven judicial branch employees and one policeman?

[Santamaria] Good morning. The information we have so far, gathered at the site of the incident, indicates the attack was carried out by a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] front. To be sure, we must verify this information and gather more data. For the time being, we are working with the information that came from the police and the detachments that went to the site.

[Reporter] Why are you so certain, and yet Government Minister Humberto de la Calle Lombana told newsmen 26 November at a news conference that the government did not dare say that a rebel or paramilitary group or some other group was responsible.

[Santamaria] As I said, we must verify it, but that is the information we have so far, and we must go further with the investigation to get more data.

[Reporter] Were the government to establish that the FARC was indeed responsible, what repercussions would the attack have on the talks that are set to begin 1 February in Caracas?

[Santamaria] That decision would be up to the president, through the government minister and Presidential Adviser for Peace Jesus Antonio Bejarano, who are the officials appointed to perform this task. At any rate, if it were to be fully established that a FARC front is responsible, I think the guerrillas would be deceiving us again, since they said they would not attack civilians. As you know, civilians working for the Judicial Branch were massacred. This was a premeditated ambush of civilian government employees. This action would clearly show the guerrillas have an ambivalent attitude, if their involvement in this incident is established.

[Second reporter] Will the peace process be jeopardized if we immediately give credence to charges that the FARC is responsible? Keep in mind the precedent set by the Rochera massacre, which you must recall. The FARC was blamed for the massacre but it turned out later that paramilitary groups operating in the region were responsible.

[Santamaria] As I said, we must continue working with this information. We have some preliminary information now, and we must wait for a final report, as the government minister stated.

[Third reporter] Violent incidents are taking place in Cesar and Antioquia Departments, in the mining region. In addition, a convoy was the target of a bomb attack, but luckily no one was were hurt. How does the government assess the escalation of violence? As mentioned before, and you have admitted it, nobody knows who is doing the shooting.

[Santamaria] A few weeks ago, the government stated that it had intelligence reports on a future escalation by the guerrillas, mainly against the public force and some economic infrastructure targets. At a forum held in Paipa with the country's governors, Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda reported on how the government has been upgrading the Armed Forces' operational capabilities, and mainly their intelligence capabilities, which are the ones that serve to combat terrorism more effectively

Therefore, the number of Armed Forces, Air Force, and police personnel has increased significantly. Intelligence capabilities have also been upgraded in terms of the technological and human resources with which the different intelligence agencies operate. The government expects the guerrillas may be planning to conduct operations against the public force in the first weeks of December. So it is taking the necessary measures to counter this problem.

[Second reporter] The painful truth is that people feel the impact of the problem the closer it draws to them. The Usme incident took place in the capital district, since that area is in this district. What does the proximity of the attack by as yet unidentified assailants entail for the security of the country's capital city?

[Santamaria] Terrorism is very difficult to control. An attack can be perpetrated by very few men. The 26 November attack was conducted after the perpetrators were reportedly tipped off that the judicial commission would be passing through the area, and so they placed a bomb in its path. After staging a surprise attack, the assailants murdered the commission members and fled. This sort of action is hard to bring fully under control. The fact that this happened in Santa Fe de Bogota is cause for much alarm for the authorities, government, and citizens. As I said, the Defense Minister in engaged in a process to specialize our intelligence work and to upgrade the capabilities of its forces.

Judges, Officials Begin Strike

PA2711173891 Paris AFP in Spanish 1435 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 27 Nov (AFP)—Colombian judges have begun an indefinite but peaceful strike to reject the killings of their companions and to demand government protection, following the killing of a judge, seven policemen, and a civilian in the southern part of this capital by persons possibly linked to the guerrillas, Antonio Suarez, president of the Judicial Branch National Association [ASONAL], stated today.

"Officials of the Colombian justice system continue to be assassinated, yet the government has not reacted," Suarez stated today on denouncing that "there has been an onslaught against justice, yet measures have not been taken to protect the lives and properties of members of the judicial branch."

The strike by judges, magistrates, attorneys, and court officials has paralyzed judicial activities in Colombia, to the detriment of at least 15,000 convicts who are waiting to be tried in court. This was noted by Suarez, who reiterated that the government remains indifferent to the crisis that affects the judiciary branch.

"We will demand that the government adopt positions to preserve the lives of those who are serving justice. First we condemn the enemies of peace, who from the neighboring mountains of the capital attack defenseless officials, who are only striving to do their constitutional job of administering justice," Suarez stated.

Approximately 50 men ambushed a judicial police patrol in Usme, 50 km southeast of this capital, killing a judge, seven detectives, and a civilian who was taking them to the site where the body of an unidentified man had been found.

Suarez said that about 22,000 judicial officials went to their work places but will not work and will remain in the vicinity to stage peaceful rallies to demand that the government of Liberal President Cesar Gaviria protect their lives and the lives of their families.

According to investigations, the Usme massacre in which Judge Hector Ojeda Montero and eight of his companions were killed, is very similar to that which occurred in January 1989 in La Rochela, a jungle region of Santander Department in the northeastern part of the country.

On that occasion, criminals of a paramilitary group killed 11 judicial officials who were on their way to carry out judicial actions.

Judge Ojeda Montero and the policemen killed will be buried today.

Ecuador

Borja, Peruvian President Agree To Meet

PA2811145691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2226 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Guayaquil (Ecuador), 27 Nov (EFE)—Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori will meet in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the border problem, the Ecuadoran president confirmed today.

Borja said that Fujimori's recent proposal to sign a treaty of "trust and security," represents "a new element in our

nations' border history because it reflects a sincere intention to engage in a dialogue and to find a peaceful solution to our problem."

Borja added: "The Ecuadoran Government and people certainly share this intention."

The Ecuadoran president declared that he will respond to President Fujimori's proposal in Cartagena, where both presidents will attend a summit of Latin American presidents (Andean Pact, Group of Rio, and G-3).

"I believe the most important new element is the non-aggression pact," Borja said.

In statements to the press, Borja stressed that Ecuador had made an offer to Peru to arrive at this agreement, "which can be described in many ways, but the main point is both nations can talk without having a finger on the trigger."

"Currently there is no finger on the trigger," Borja added.

This would be the first bilateral meeting between the presidents of the two nations, Borja noted.

Ecuador and Peru are experiencing a crisis that was intensified in June due to contrasting interpretations of the 1942 Protocol, signed after a war in 1941 and which caused another armed conflict in 1981.

Ecuador considers the protocol "void and not applicable," while Peru considers it "a valid document."

Ecuador claims there is a 78 km stretch of the 1,600 km border between Ecuador and Peru that has not been marked off due to geographic irregularities not anticipated in the protocol.

In the wake of the June crisis, when military patrols of both nations mobilized, Borja proposed during his UN General Assembly speech that Pope John Paul II mediate the conflict. Peru rejected this proposal.

A Peruvian minister traveled to Quito on 25 November to deliver President Fujimori's proposal.

The Peruvian president appeared willing to conclude "the border demarcation" and thereby attain a climate of "mutual trust" that would make the implementation of integration projects possible.

In addition, Fujimori offered Ecuador direct access to and unrestricted navigation through the Amazon River.

Borja Names New Mines and Energy Minister

PA2811151091 Paris AFP in Spanish 0232 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Quito, 27 Nov (AFP)—Oil expert Rafael Almeida Macheno was sworn in on 27 November as minister of mines and energy in a ceremony headed by President Rodrigo Borja.

Almedia, whose background includes posts in the Latin America Energy Organization and OPEC, is replacing Oscar Garzon, who tendered his irrevocable resignation on 26 November.

At the start of impeachment proceedings against him at the Chamber of Representatives, Garzon defended himself and said he had tendered his resignation to the president. After that statement, he walked out of the hall.

Garzon stands accused of allegedly exceeding legal rules by ordering an increase in the price of fuels in September.

Peru

Terrorists Throw Bomb at Spanish Embassy

PA2911041591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0343 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Text] Lima, 28 Nov (EFE)—A terrorist attack with explosives was perpetrated on 28 November at the Spanish Embassy in Lima's San Isidro District, according to police sources. The attack caused considerable damage but there were no casualties.

The attack on the Spanish Embassy was one of at least four attacks that occurred this evening in several areas of the Peruvian capital, which also suffered a partial blackout, presumably caused by terrorist sabotage of electricity towers.

The sources reported that unidentified persons threw an explosive device at the Spanish Embassy, where a spokesman reported that the explosion destroyed the main gate, a control booth located in an interior garden, and windows on the building's two floors. There were no diplomats inside the diplomatic facility at the time of the terrorist attack, only a guard.

The other attacks occurred against the headquarters of local banks, and police defused an explosive device in another bank's offices in La Victoria District.

The blackout also affected the areas of Huacho and Ica, located north and south of Lima, respectively. Like Lima, the two areas' electricity is supplied by the hydroelectric plant at Rio Mantaro, located in the central Peruvian sierra.

The blackout in Lima affected only certain districts, and electricity was restored 20 minutes later.

Fujimori Border Dispute Proposal Approved

PA2711213891 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Text] Parliamentary circles agree that the government has proceeded correctly in retaking the initiative in the border dispute by proposing a Peruvian-Ecuadoran integration program set along the guidelines of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. The program would seek to find a

definitive demarcation of the common border. Here are the opinions of three deputies on this issue.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Alberto Borea Odria, of the Popular Christian Party] This is an imaginative proposal that was hinted at by Foreign Minister Garcia Bedoya several years ago. It implies the definite end to what Ecuador believes to be a problem, but is nothing more than a misunderstanding about a few miles of border under the Rio de Janeiro Protocol (Captain Diaz de Agiat) decision.

I believe that this is an interesting proposal intended to give Ecuador navigation rights and goes so far as to mention a port in the Amazon, so that Ecuador can use the larger rivers that cross through Peru.

[Javier Alva Orlandini of the Popular Action Party] The proposal President Fujimori made on 26 November is interesting. I hope he can speak with President Rodrigo Borja and convince him that the people of Ecuador and Peru have a common past and also a common destiny. For this, they should maintain this friendship, which was finally forged in 1942 through the Rio de Janeiro Protocol.

[Ana Maria Fernandini of the Aprista Party of Peru] I was visited this morning by the Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry who was officially presenting President Fujimori's proposal. I believe it is very positive, because it is within the guidelines of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol. What is more, it includes navigation rights in the Amazon and it speaks of bilateral agreements on work areas along the respective borders.

I believe that all this is very positive in the Peruvian foreign policy, which is one of integration. [end recording]

U.S. Debt Reduction Initiatives Viewed

PY2611153691 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Nov 91 Sunday Supplement pp 22,23,24

[By a 'team of professionals advising United Left Senator Gustavo Mohme' on U.S. economic aid to the continent]

[Excerpt] President George Bush's Americas Initiative cannot be analyzed just as a proposal that seeks to reformulate U.S. relations with Latin American countries in three basic aspects: trade, investments, and the debt.

The chances that any Latin American country will reach agreement in any of these areas will depend—as explicitly as it is set forth in the Americas Initiative—on its ability to implement a serious process of economic reform to allow development based on a free market economy, deregulation, the reduction of the state, and private initiative.

From this perspective, the Americas Initiative will not work as a Latin American strategy for development. On the contrary, this program seeks to standardize the implementation of liberal economic policies in the region through the key pressure instruments used by the U.S. Government, among them the multilateral credit organizations: the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB].

The situation of Latin American countries will be clearly subordinated to U.S. Governments decisions because, despite the pretense of an "association" between all the countries of the continent, the conditions for such an association are unilaterally imposed by the United States.

We must also understand that besides the compulsory nature of the reforms needed to implement an unrestrained free market system as a condition for participating in the Initiative, any departure from those strict macroeconomic conditions, or the adoption of any other system, will bring about the isolation of the country from the association.

Bush's initiative does not represent a significant solution for Latin American foreign debt burden either. The initiative contemplates a reduction of part of the $12 billion debt contracted with the U.S. Government, $6.8 billion of which was contracted through concessions (loans granted by AID or through Law PL-480 "Food for Peace"), and $5.2 billion was contracted through commercial loans.

President Bush's offer to reduce the debt with the U.S. Government will have a significant impact only in some Central American and Caribbean countries which contracted large loans with the U.S. Government. For Latin American as a whole, however, the $12 billion in question represents only 12 percent of the debt with that country and only 3 percent of all Latin American foreign debts. Even if the United States decided to pardon the entire debt, which is not the case, the impact would still be meager on Latin American economies.

The plan announces a substantial reduction for countries deeply indebted with debts contracted through concessions, but it does not specify figures. Regarding commercial debts, it is announced that the U.S. Government could sell part of that debt within the framework of operations of debt conversion for environmental investments or for preservation programs.

The creation of "environmental funds" has also been foreseen. The interest on the debts contracted with the U.S. Government could be deposited in local currency in these funds which could to used to finance environmental projects in the debtor countries.

Non-government organizations and personalities directly connected with the government or any of its agencies will play an important role in this swap of debt for environmental investments. Only in exceptional cases would the debtor countries receive donations for environmental programs, since they must be channeled to the non-government organizations. This condition

obstructs this kind of agreements since it restricts the Latin American governments' powers on environmental projects which are closely connected to the development and preservation of their national patrimony.

Although the interest on the debts contracted with the U.S. government are not a meaningful portion of the regional debt, the Bush initiative includes strict conditioning criteria—aimed at broadening and accelerating liberal economic reforms—as a basic requisite to allow the countries to benefit from this debt reduction offer. The economic restructuring will be supervised by the IMF, World Bank, and the IDB.

In order to obtain the approval of this initiative, President Bush presented the U.S. Congress with a draft bill on the foreign debt which contains the following aspects:

The creation of a "facility" in the U.S. Treasury to support the initiative's objectives and to administer the reduction of the debt of those countries which implement the conditioned economic policies.

Conditions to join the debt reduction plan: a) The implementation of economic reform programs with the IMF or the World Bank; b) Coordination with the IDB or other multilateral organizations like AID of the financing of the structural or partial adjustment programs; c) The implementation of structural reforms to impose an open foreign investment system; and d) The negotiation of debt reduction agreements with the banks within the framework of the Brady Plan where applicable.

The connection between the foreign debt renegotiation and the implementation of orthodox structural adjustment plans is hereby repeated. This has never solved the debt problem or helped Latin American economies to grow. On the contrary, adjustment programs have badly affected the employment level, production, and standard of living of the poor.

The bad effects of the economic policies and the pro-exporting development model sponsored by the international financial organizations have made U.S. environmental preservation organizations pressure for changes in the draft bill sent by Bush to Congress.

The questioning of the draft bill is centered on the need to change the conditions that demand the implementation of pro-export development strategies because they have negative effects on the environment, in that their implementation is a contradiction. The exchange of a minimum portion of the debt for investments to protect the environment will not even compensate for the harm caused by the America's Initiative pro-export development strategies.

It must also be noted that the conditions of the initiative are stricter than those demanded by the Paris Club. In September 1990, the Paris Club member countries adopted more flexible criteria to lighten the foreign debt burden, especially on those countries with mid and low incomes, with the sole condition that they maintain IMF adjustment programs.

Although the conditions of Bush's initiative are very explicit, no reference has been made as to the portion of the debt which may be reduced or how this reduction will reflect on the servicing of the debt in question. Some analysts say that, at least in a short term, a reduction of the debt will not lighten any determined country's debt, since the payments on the debt will not change in order not to affect the U.S. budget. A restructuring of the debt service will nonetheless be made, which will mean that the principal will be paid off, thus reducing the outstanding debt. This benefit will only be felt in the mid term.

Brady Plan (1989)

This initiative was presented by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady to a meeting of the IDB board of governors in Amsterdam in 1989.

It marked a new stage in the treatment of the developed countries' foreign debt because, contrary to previous proposals, it includes the reduction of the principal and the servicing of the debt as one of the main factors to find a lasting solution to the debt problem, after verifying that the debtor countries are incapable of paying.

It must be remembered that the debt-reducing initiative was made in 1989 because in 1985, when the Baker Plan was proposed, it would have caused the bankruptcy of many of the banks which had a high level of exposure. From 1985 to 1989 the banks improved their situation through several mechanisms created by the creditor countries, mechanisms which allowed the banks to transfer their debts to other institutions and thus prevent the bankruptcy of the international financial system.

The Brady Plan was launched at a moment when the banks had managed to strengthen their capitals and to accumulate reserves to an extent that they were in better condition to help solve the debt problem. This plan also seeks to avoid the deterioration of the debt notes in the secondary market. It was better for the banks to reduce the overall debt by 20 or 30 percent and to recover 70 percent of it, than to see the value of the debt reduced to 15 or 20 percent.

The Brady Plan is centered on the third world countries' debt contracted with commercial banks. It includes aspects like the repurchase of the debt by the debtor countries and the reduction of market interest rates, with the banks absorbing the difference. To join this plan, the debtor countries must submit themselves to "structural adjustment" programs supervised by multilateral financial organizations, especially by the IMF.

This plan has allowed the creation of many mechanisms to exchange debt for capital in debtor countries, especially for public companies. Thus, the U.S. Government

achieves two of its goals: the reduction of the debt and the promotion of privatization.

According to a SELA [Latin American Economic System] report issued in April 1991, the initial expectations of the Brady Plan have diminished due to: "a) The limited official support to promote debt reduction initiatives in a significant number of countries; b) The stressing of the use of voluntary mechanisms; c) High selectivity; and d) Other conditions."

Contrary to the free market model proclaimed by the U.S. Government and the multilateral financial organizations, the Brady Plan does not make meaningful use of market mechanisms to reduce the foreign debt. Third world countries have not been able to buy their low-quoted foreign debt notes on the secondary market because the commercial banks' offer have always been higher than the levels set by the market, thus denying the debtor countries access to the markets.

According to the SELA report, "the Brady Plan has been more successful as a U.S. foreign policy instrument to strengthen the implementation of orthodox economic policies in the developing countries than as a definite solution to the foreign debt problem." [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Idea of IMF Structural Accord Abandoned

PY2811132491 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] A few hours ago, the government abandoned the idea of signing a three-year structural agreement with the IMF and decided to begin negotiating, as we mentioned in our headlines, a one-year stand-by [preceding word in English] agreement—without trying to impose a definition—in a process that will begin with the arrival of an IMF technical mission on 2 December.

Reliable sources said that this decision was decided on during a meeting of the government's economic team in which Alejandro Vagh Villegas, the IMF executive director for Uruguay and five other South American countries, participated.

Vagh, who came from Washington to accompany the IMF managing director on his visit to Uruguay and who is now in Argentina, had recommended to the government that it not yet request the visit of an IMF mission, advising it to wait for a more appropriate moment. This position was also supported by the director of the Uruguayan Financial Agency [Agencia Financiera del Uruguay] in Washington, economist (Carlos Estemori).

Vagh said that some points should be more clearly defined before requesting the presence of an IMF mission, thus increasing the chances for success in reaching an agreement. Nevertheless, the majority of the economic team members believe it is appropriate for an IMF mission to come now and conclude negotiations later, an official source said.

The official source added that the former economy minister supports the commercial opening measures and agrees with marching toward a de-indexation [of the economy], although he believes that the fiscal side—where, in his opinion, weaknesses remain—should be further strengthened.

Another government source said that there are things that Vagh does not know: things that we are doing, that we have done, and that we are willing to continue doing. The source added that when Vegh noticed this, he did not insist [on his point].

Lacalle Seeks Talks To Amend Constitution

PY2711154691 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 27 Nov 91

[Excerpts] President Luis Alberto Lacalle last night made an important announcement at a ceremony to launch a book written by [deceased National Party Deputy] Hector Martin Sturla. The book is entitled The Constitution and the Country.

Lacalle said that in honor of his deceased colleague and friend, he will entrust the interior minister with the political task—which he himself cannot carry out due to constitutional restrictions—of beginning official talks on criticisms of the current system, on the need for legislation on political parties, and on the need to amend the Constitution. In his speech, Lacalle said:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] I publicly proclaim today that I entrusting the interior minister with the political task, in keeping with his post, of beginning official talks on criticisms of the current system, on the need for legislation on political parties, and on the need to amend the Constitution. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Review of Navy's Incorporation of 16 Units

PY2611014491 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish 16 Nov 91 p 10

[Text] In almost two years of the current administration, the Uruguayan Navy has incorporated several units which, according to its commander in chief, Vice Admiral James Coates, will contribute to comprising a fleet appropriate, in number and type, for the fulfillment of its mission.

Among these new units we can mention two Cape class patrol boats donated by the U.S. Navy, which were named R.O.U. 10 Colonia and R.O.U. 11 Rio Negro.

The frigate Uruguay also arrived in the country on 14 November 1990. It replaces the old destroyer with the same name which was deactivated in an emotional ceremony on 2 May 1990.

Frigate Montevideo arrived on 19 March, while the patrol boat San Jose was commissioned on 17 May, thanks to the

Chilean Navy which has already cooperated by towing a dry dock from South Africa, an unprecedented operation in our region.

Moreover, with resources obtained from the sale of obsolete airplanes, three new single-engine Cesna 182 airplanes, one two-engine Seneca Cesna plane, and two Westland Wessex 60 helicopters were acquired, while the Bell 47 G helicopter was repaired, which allows naval aviation to patrol the sea and cooperate in search-and-rescue operations.

Coates concluded by announcing that four minesweepers of the Condor class, named R.O.U. 31 Temerario, R.O.U. 32 Valiente, R.O.U. 33 Fortuna, and R.O.U. 34 Audaz, have left Germany for our country. He stressed the unselfish cooperation of the French Navy in allowing free access to a 100-mm turret and to a complete torpedo shop for the best training of frigate personnel.

Guyana

President Hoyte Declares State of Emergency

PA2811222591 Paris AFP in Spanish 2151 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Georgetown, 28 Nov (AFP)—It has been officially announced in this capital that on 28 November Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte declared a state of emergency throughout the country. This will allow Hoyte to reactivate the parliament, which was dissolved on 28 September.

Hoyte decided to postpone the general elections, which had been scheduled for 16 December, in compliance with requests from the opposition and the Carter Center, a U.S. electoral observation institution.

The objective of the state of emergency is to harmonize the postponement of the elections with the constitutional mandate that establishes that 90 days must pass after parliament is dissolved before elections can be held.

Legalizes Election Postponement

FL2911021991 Bridgetown CANA in English 2146 GMT 28 Nov 91

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Nov 28, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte on Thursday declared a state of emergency to legalise the postponement until next year of Guyana's general elections, constitutionally due by December 28.

Hoyte told the nation Thursday night that Parliament, prorogued on September 28 ahead of a December 16 election date, would be recalled on Tuesday to enact legislation to postpone elections.

Election chairman Rudy Collins announced last week that contrary to his expectations, an acceptable voters' list could not be ready for December 16 or by December 28, with Hoyte later confirming the elections could not therefore take place within the deadline.

"This means that the government would cease to have legal authority on December 28, and in the absence of an election, there could be no legal successor government. We therefore have a constitutional crisis on our hands," Hoyte said Thursday. "A state of emnergency has therefore arisen in our country—and the attorney general has so advised," he said.

"This morning, in accordance with Article 150 of the Constitution, I signed a proclamation declaring a state of public emergency. This act has provided the legal basis for me, in terms of Article 70 of the Constitution, to recall the parliament which was dissolved on September 28, 1991, and I have accordingly summoned the parliament to meet on Tuesday, December 3."

The president said: "It will be the task of the reconvened parliament to enact legislation to postpone elections and to deal with all ancillary and related matters which might arise in connection with such a decision."

When parliament reconvenes Tuesday, only ruling People's National Congress (PNC) representatives will be qualified to sit, since representatives of the three opposition parties disqualified themselves after prolonged withdrawal from the House earlier this year.

Hoyte said, however, that legislation will be instituted as soon as the parliament meets, to enable the disqualified members to return. This would allow those members "to contribute to the crucial decisions that the parliament would have to make to ensure that all reasonable arrangements are put in place for holding of an election as early as practicable, that would satisfy the highest norms of transparency, and the due regularity, and the just expectations of the Guyanese people," Hoyte said.

Stressing that the priority issue was to get the voters list in order, Hoyte said he has been continuing consultations with opposition parties to arrive at a concensus as to how to proceed on the list.

"Some of them have also raised several issues that go beyond the voters' list," Hoyte said, mentioning, without comment, concerns about the power of the elections commission to employ staff and exercise full authority over them; reorganisation, and removal of staff, at the National Registration Centre (NRC); and issuance of i.d. cards to all voters.

"It is impossible for me at this stage to say when elections will be held," Hoyte said. "The date (of elections) will depend crucially on the ability and willingnesss of the political parties to act reasonably to achieve concensus on the various issues, and to give strong and unequivocal support to the chairman and the commission," Hoyte said. He said he wanted to be in position to dissolve the reconvened parliament as soon as practicable, and would do so when the chairman of the elections commission notifies him that he has a satisfactory list.